

P I C T U R E S
O F
L I F E.

V O L . I I



J. Heath sculp.

The Levee. Le Lever du Petit-maitre.

PICTURES
OF
L I F E:
OR,
A RECORD
OF
M A N N E R S,
PHYSICAL AND MORAL,
ON THE CLOSE OF
THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

VOL. II.

L O N D O N:
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PHYSICAL AND MORAL

OF THE CIVIL

THE EIGHTH CENTURY

AND THE PRESENT

THE HISTORY OF

THE CIVIL

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THE CIVIL

PICTURES

OF

L I F E.

PICTURE THE THIRTEENTH.

THE LEVEE.

THE young Duke de B*** had just risen from his bed. His Grace, who was now freed from all controul, and in possession of a fortune sufficient to enrich a hundred families, was one of those fashionable characters who are equally insignificant and assuming. His *valet de chambre* was busily employed in the decoration of his person : His *maitre d'ho-*

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tel waited to pour out his chocolate: his secretary, an intriguing little Abbé, penned tender *billets doux*, sometimes from the dictates of his noble employer, and sometimes from the suggestions of his own fancy: while a pretty little round-faced milliner attended on his Grace with a variety of perfumes, washes, and gloves, for his Grace to buy.

SHE presented the gloves——

“AH! ah! she is very pretty,” said his Grace, patting her under the chin.

“THESE gloves, my Lord, are excellently well made.”

“YOUR provoking person, my lovely girl, is better made.—She is voluptuous!”

“WILL your Grace be pleased to *feel* them?—They are as fine as silk.”

“Your skin, my dear, is perfect satin.”

WILL

"WILL your Grace buy *those*?"—

"I LIKE *these* better—How much?—But I waste time—these kind of bargains should be settled *tête-à-tête*."

THE Abbé grinned; but the old pander who had introduced the little trader with her wares, assumed the serious but insidious look of a protector.

THE Duke took up his cup of chocolate; and, the important task of dressing being finished, his attendants quitted the room.

"YOU are really a delightful girl!—But you must come earlier in the morning. Let us however talk this matter over."

"IT is not on my own account, my Lord, that I have made this visit, as I presume MR. BONNEAU has already informed your Grace."

"No, no; he has not informed me of any thing: but I have seen you, and you—please me."

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"YOUR

"YOUR Grace is pleased to flatter—but I am now three-and-twenty years of age, and am not the kind of character to be under your Grace's *protection*. I am not possessed of those refined accomplishments which relieve the mind, and steal away the heart. My face indeed, as I am told, is tolerably pretty for a homely girl; but my figure is of the common mould, not suited to display the brilliancy of dress: it would be impossible for your Grace to introduce me any where with advantage."

"THE singularity and candid freedom of her manners please me!—Then it was not merely to dispose of gloves and perfumes that you came?"

"MY Lord, I have a lovely niece, not fifteen years of age; her complexion covered with the finest bloom, a skin as white as snow, a countenance inspiring! In music, of which she is a perfect mistress, her taste is exquisite,
and

and her voice equal to the finest airs. Lately introduced to a rehearsal at the Theatre in the *Rue Tarant*, she performed her part with so much spirit and address, that ADINOT has already offered her a thousand crowns, and NICOLET as much more, to tempt her to engage. She is in short, my Lord, a perfect gem; but it is with reluctance we consent to place her in a situation where the immoderate use of paint must soon destroy her beauties, and bad example corrupt her innocence."

"THIS description is extremely interesting! —But, my dear, we have too many virtuous girls already; a female must render herself conspicuous by acquiring fame upon some public stage, before she can expect the notice of THE GREAT. What man of taste or spirit would ruin himself ingloriously, for the sake of an obscure and virtuous girl? It is not such characters we men of gallantry and pleasure desire to possess. A celebrated monster, like LA R—s;

a beauty old and profligate, like C—T ; or a slovenly devotee, like R—D, if admired for excellence on the stage, are the only characters for whom a man of fashion will distract his mind."

" REALLY ! Can this be possible ?"

" HOWEVER, I think that I shall take you into—*keeping* for some time, for without dispute you are—a pretty little girl."

" MY Lord, that is not *my* situation of life."

" AND it is the situation of your niece ?"

" No, my Lord, not yet ; but being informed of the generous gallantry of your Grace's character, and wishing to place her on the stage with every possible advantage, my mother and I conceived your Grace would not refuse to become the *Noble Protector* of her beauty and merit ; and to render, by your Grace's patronage, her *first appearance* easy and auspicious."

" BUT

"BUT how, if she should fail in the attempt, like many others whom I have seen, and fall into an inferior station on the stage, the world will still consider me her PATRON, and I shall be exposed to disgrace and ridicule. No, it is impossible—it cannot be."

"OH! if your Grace would but consent to see her—MR. BONNEAU knows—"

"IT would be of no effect, my dear, for I am above all those weaknesses—"

"WHAT, my Lord, already!"

THE milliner coughed as she pronounced the last word, and MR. BONNEAU immediately entered the apartment, leading in his hand a young female of astonishing beauty, covered with blushes of modesty and confusion, whose swelling bosom marked the budding age, that earliest period in the spring of life, between fourteen and fifteen years.

“ Is this the lady ? ” said the Duke coldly—
“ Ah !—Yes,—she is certainly a pretty girl !—
Well—you may leave her with me for about
an hour—I shall then be able to judge of her
abilities for the Stage.

BONNEAU smiled and retired, making a
signal to the milliner to follow him.

BUT ZARA threw her lovely arms around the
neck of her aunt, and prevented her departure.

“ VASTLY well indeed ! ” observed the
Duke ; “ it was finely played ! She is an
excellent actress !—But that is enough at pre-
sent.—You, my little girl, must stay with me ;
and you may—retire with MR. BONNEAU.”

ZARA however still clung round her aunt,
and positively refused to part.

“ WHY, how now ?—What is the meaning
of this ? You have surely given the girl very
bad instructions.—Oh ! well, then, take
her away.”

THE

THE aunt and her niece instantly retired.

SCARCELY however had they reached the bottom of the stairs, when BONNEAU overtook them; and with earnest entreaties pressed them to return. His entreaties were in vain, and they immediately quitted the house with great precipitation.

THE conduct of the aunt was not in fact so culpable, as it may upon the first view appear. MR. BONNEAU, the Duke's procurer, had accidentally discovered the lovely little JAVOTTE in the shop of her aunt in *Rue Mazarine*. Having acquired the imposing air of a man of *interest and power*, he offered his protection, changed the name of JAVOTTE to that of ZARA, provided different masters to instruct her in the polite accomplishments, and recommended to her to attempt the Stage, watching all the while the object of his intended prey with the attention and fidelity of an Eastern Eunuch. As a means of introducing her
to

to his master, he had mentioned the Duke to her as a Nobleman whose patronage would ensure success. Too refined however in the execution of his schemes, he had neglected to prepare his Grace for the projected interview ; never entertaining the faintest idea of a repulse, and expecting approbation in proportion to the refinements of his artifice and intrigue. The Duke, ignorant of these circumstances, and having no great opinion of the virtue of ZARA, had precipitately dismissed her and her aunt from his presence ; but informed, in a few words, of his mistake, he instantly dispatched BONNEAU to solicit their return. Happily they rejected his solicitations, and escaped from the house.

WHEN ZARA and her aunt reached home, they accidentally met with a lady of highly respected character, whose extensive beneficence was inspired by the feelings of her excellent heart, and supplied by the means of an ample fortune ; and they ingenuously communicated

nicated to her every circumstance that had passed. Acquainted with the character of his Grace, she shuddered at the danger to which the lovely GENEVIEVE had been innocently exposed, and kindly offered to take her to her own house. The proffered protection was accepted with gratitude ; and this auspicious event, like an interposition of Providence, gave a new turn to the future fortunes of the lovely girl.

MADAME DE CH*** was so charmed with the purity of her sentiments, and entertained by her agreeable qualifications, that she soon conceived for her the most unbounded esteem, and undertook the superintendence of her education. Being continually in the company of each other, she was at length understood to be the daughter of her benevolent patroness, until THE PRINCESS, pleased with her merit, requested she might be placed in the retinue of the Court ; and MADAME DE CH*** thought it previously necessary, on such an occasion, to disclose the real circumstances of her situation.

THE

THE PRINCESS smiled at the narrative, and admitted ZARA into her train. She gave her the name of GENEVIEVE, and in a short time distinguished her as her peculiar favourite and friend. From this situation she was afterwards married by the MARQUIS DE L***, and received a very handsome settlement.

AT a period of about sixteen months subsequent to her marriage, she accidentally met the Duke at the table of her royal benefactress. Time had effaced from his memory all recollection of her person ; but her ripened beauties so sensibly touched his heart, that he became deeply enamoured of her charms, and employed every courtesy and kindness with her husband to obtain an invitation to her house. The virtue of the young Marchioness was far above the power of temptation. The Duke, however, having one day suddenly surprised her while she was alone, pressed his suit with such rapturous eloquence, that she was induced to
make

make him a reply : " I am certainly," said she, " under considerable obligations to your Grace. There was a moment of my life, in which if you had been a little kind, I never could have known my present happiness, and you perhaps might have triumphed in my ruin. This is the only answer I shall make. Trace back the wicked practices of your life, and you will find me enrolled among the objects of your base designs."

SHE continued silent.

THE Duke had been guilty of such a series of iniquities, that he was incapable of selecting any one in particular from the number. The observation however continued to disturb his mind, and by an arduous retrospection he at length brought the circumstances to his recollection.

CHANCE soon afterwards afforded him another interview, when he threw himself with humility at the feet of the offended Marchioness, and exclaimed, " My vices, Madam, have been
the

the cause of your prosperity: it is to them you are indebted for your happiness; and your *gratitude* ought to become the mediator of my *forgiveness*."

PICTURE

PICTURE THE FOURTEENTH.

THE MORNING TOILET.

THE Marquis DE L*** was seated under the hands of his hair-dresser, while the running-footman waited ready to receive his morning orders for the distribution of the cards of compliment, when the arrival of the Marquis's taylor was announced, and a large fat man dressed in black, followed by his assistant, immediately entered the room. He displayed an embroidered coat, and while the master enlarged upon the beauty of the sleeves, the man displayed the elegant fashion of its scanty skirts.

"Is this the thing?" said the Marquis.
 "But what buttons are these you have put on it? They are not the newest fashion."

"Excuse

"Excuse me, *Monsieur le Marquis*," replied the taylor, "excuse me."

"I saw others yesterday at the Duke DE F***'s; I will have mine in the same way.—Take it back, and return with it in an hour, for I am going out, dressed *en chenille*.—In an hour, do you hear me?"

THE valet de chambre, and his man who attended to heat the irons for him, seemed to say, "Our master is very difficult to please:" they knew, however, that his sharp expression was adopted with a view to chide the taylor, in order to intimidate him from delivering his enormous bill.

THE Marquis, however, was not successful in his attempt to drive him away. The taylor requested with great humility that he might be permitted to speak a word with *Monsieur le Marquis* respecting an affair of the highest importance, for the accomplish-
ment

ment of which he should stand in need of his *credit*. On hearing the word *credit* pronounced, a word ever welcome to his ear in both its senses, the Marquis instantly ordered his attendants to withdraw, forgetting even to dispatch the *Coureur* with the important embassies of the morning.

"WELL, my friend *Roufflet*," cried the Marquis to the Taylor, "what is this business?"

"WHY, *Monsieur le Marquis*," replied the Taylor, "you must understand that my daughter ADELAIDE is going to be married.—Oh! if you did but know what a charming girl she is!—She is engaged to—a LAWYER. The match will be extremely advantageous, for he has already acquired a considerable degree of fame in his profession; and—and—as a marriage portion, I have assigned and transferred to him the whole amount of your little bills.—I have brought them with me in order to ——"

"How!" exclaimed the Marquis, "assigned my bills as your daughter's portion!"

“ SIGNED and sealed, *Monseigneur le Marquis*.—Here they are.—You know, *Monseigneur le Marquis*, that you have not paid me any money upon account since you came of age—And—let me see—they amount together to the net sum of—of—twenty thousand crowns. But as you are a *good man*, and I have no fear about the safety of my money, I do not request immediate payment of a single farthing. My intended son-in-law is too deeply smitten with my daughter’s charms to require the portion down ; and as he is a Lawyer, you and he will, at some future period, settle the account together, without the smallest difficulty. You must retain him as your Counsellor, if you should chance to have any law-suits on your hands.”

THE Marquis, although prodigal of expence in the pursuit of his pleasures, was provident of the means of supporting them. At this juncture

junction he had an intrigue in view, to the success of which he was willing to sacrifice a sum nearly equal to that which he owed the Taylor: not that he felt any fondness for the young and lovely object of his design; for his heart was callous to the charms of love, and every pleasure appeared vapid and delightful, unless he procured it in some fashionable way, or purchased it by the means of artifice and corruption.

UNHAPPY and contemptible condition of our *Roués à-la-mode*, worthy of the odious name they have themselves assumed!

"I SHOULD be glad to see this charming daughter of yours," replied the Marquis; "I shall then be able to judge whether it will be worth my while to relinquish a scheme of gallantry which I have now in view with a lovely young *Grissette*, for the purpose of immediately paying off this marriage-portion."

"WITH all my heart, *Monsieur le Marquis*. My daughter and her intended spouse shall wait on you together."

"I SHALL be glad to see them to-morrow evening."

"TO-MORROW evening, if agreeable to *Monsieur le Marquis*."

"THEY must stay to supper with me."

"YOU do them infinite honour, *Monsieur le Marquis*."

"AND you may, if you please, make one of the party."

"MONSIEUR LE MARQUIS does me too much honour'."

"No, no ; come with them. I insist on your company."

IT was a settled thing. The Taylor accordingly bowed, and retired.

To what motives are we to attribute the solicitude of the *Marquis* to procure this interview?

To a heart capable of harbouring the basest villainy, he united a most ingenious mind. The Taylor's bills being transferred, in consideration of a marriage-portion, to a Lawyer, he was sensible must be paid; for he had endeavoured in vain to find a subterfuge by which the assignment might be evaded; and in consequence of this conviction, an æconomical idea, for the first time in his life, occurred to his mind. "If the Taylor's daughter," said he, "is worth the money I had devoted to the *Grifette*, I will make her earn her portion; and it will only be exchanging *pretty girl* for *pretty girl*; but if she is not of equal worth, I must consider——"

THE *Marquis* waited for the hour of invitation with some impatience.

PRECISELY as the clock struck seven, on the ensuing evening, the Taylor, the Lawyer,

and his bride elect, arrived in a hackney-coach. The lovely *Adelaide* descended from the carriage in all the radiance of dress and beauty, and was conducted into the house of the *Marquis*.

“ You are come rather too soon,” said the *Valet de Chambre*, “ for my master is not yet returned. In the mean time, however, what amusement shall I provide for you ? We have excellent wines, back-gammon tables, a draft-board, chess, cards, dice-boxes, masquerade dresses, and a billiard-table.”

“ Some wine immediately,” cried the Taylor, “ and let it be of the best sort : we will then consider what is next to be done.”

THE winter-season was at this period far advanced, and the visitors seated themselves close around the well-heaped fire, while the attentive *Valet* placed a screen before the lady to protect her face from its scorching heat ; and
brought

brought up some of the richest wines the cellar afforded.

THE Lawyer was perfectly sober; but as he knew of no law against his drinking good wine, he pushed about the bottle with great spirit and rapidity in compliment to his father-in-law; observing to his future bride, that as she had dined early, and the labours of the toilet had prevented her from tasting any wine at home, she had better take a biscuit and a glass or two of malmsey. The advice was pressing recommended by the *Valet de Chambre*; and as an inducement for her to accept it, he observed, that his master never supped till midnight.

THE Taylor and the Lawyer continued to enjoy the pleasures of the bottle for some time, and then sat down to play a party at chess. The Taylor complained that the heat of the fire had made him extremely thirsty; he therefore called for more wine, that he might be

better able to observe the progress of his adversary's moves ; and his son-in-law, a lusty boy, in all the vigorous health of youth, was too polite to let him drink alone. About nine o'clock the Taylor felt himself overpowered by sleep ; and while he dozed over the chess-board, the Lawyer, who conceived that he was profoundly meditating some deep and subtle move, waited his leisure with such respectful patience, that at length he also fell fast asleep.

THE lovely *Adelaide* had drank two glasses of the malmsey wine, but having fortunately found upon the chimney-piece A BOOK OF LOVE, felt no inclination to repose ; and she continued to amuse herself by an examination of the pictures it contained until the moment the young *Marquis* arrived.

STRUCK by her extraordinary beauty, he bowed, and approached her with respectful steps. She rose, with blushing modesty, from her chair, and advanced towards her sleeping
father,

father, with intent to awake him ; but the *Marquis* interposed to prevent his being disturbed, and artfully induced the unsuspecting *Adelaide* to accompany him to his *Cabinet*. The wine, which had been tempered for the purpose, soon began to operate ; the youthful blood of *Adelaide* was on fire, and a seduction, the accomplishment of which would have been impossible by any other means, was rendered easy by the aid of *opium*.

THE mind of the *Marquis* felt no remorse at the crime his treachery had perpetrated ; and he quietly reconducted the innocent victim to the parlour where her father and future husband were still asleep. " There," said he, " you see how important it is to your own interests never to disclose what has happened. I used no violence, for you threw yourself voluntarily into my arms."

" ALAS !" cried the afflicted *Adelaide*, " I was deprived of my senses, and knew not what I did."

" No,

“ No, no !” replied the guilty *Marquis*, “ you were anxious to know the value of a man like me.—I shall order these sleepers to be immediately awakened. Dry up your tears, therefore, and do not let them perceive the smallest traces of your distress ; for they may perhaps be induced to inquire into its cause.”

To remove the remaining appearances of distress, the *Marquis* prevailed on *Adelaide* to take the refreshment of tea, and then immediately left the house.

THE *Valet de Chambre* awakened the Taylor from his nap ; the Lawyer also was disturbed in his turn ; and while they drank their tea, they apologized with seeming shame for the drowsiness into which they had been betrayed, which the *Valet de Chambre* artfully insinuated had been occasioned by the heat of the room.

ON

ON the approach of midnight the *Marquis* returned. The supper was immediately served up, and the company eat and drank with great hilarity. The Taylor's bills were produced, receipts written, and the money counted on the table. The spirits of the Lawyer were raised by the prospect of immediate payment, and the mind of *Adelaide* alone felt the least uneasiness.

AT three o'clock in the morning the company retired.

THE first object of the Taylor's recollection, after a long sleep had dispelled the effects of his debauch, was the money he had received ; but on feeling in his pockets, to his utter astonishment and surprize, it was gone.

THE Lawyer, who at this moment had just arrived, to pay his morning visit, declared that it had not been paid to him.

“ WE

"WE have been tricked and cheated," exclaimed the Taylor; and they resolved to go immediately to the *Marquis* upon this subject. Previous to their departure, they thought proper to communicate their suspicions to *Adelaide*, and accordingly entered her apartment, where they found her dissolved in a flood of tears. She removed, however, the fears of her father and her lover, by informing them that the money had been paid to her.

THE afflicted *Adelaide*, conscious that the extraordinary appearance of a *Parisian* girl in tears would require some explanation, hinted the comforts of female celibacy, and appeared to be distressed by the approaching change of her condition, which the reception of her portion assured her was soon to happen. The chaste and delicate feelings from which this sentiment seemed to arise, satisfied the minds of the lover and the parent.

THE nuptial union was celebrated in a few days subsequent to this interview. But the
sagacious

sagacious Lawyer beheld with astonishment
*****. He immediately consulted
Dr. MITIE upon the subject; and his wife,
at length, acknowledged all that had hap-
pened.——

By what means was this injury to be
'repaired!

THERE are certain crimes for the pre-
vention of which the municipal laws have
made no provision, and the only mode of punish-
ment which it is in the power of the sufferer
to inflict, is to point out and expose the name
of the guilty aggressor.——

THE fate of the MARQUIS DE L***
is well known.

PICTURE

PICTURE THE FIFTEENTH.

THE PATRONESS.

MY Lord had just risen from his toilet. The blue ribband already graced his breast; and the fragrant nosegay adorned his hand. Close by the fire sat a lovely female; and while the *valet de chambre* tied on his Lordship's bag, orders were given for the visitors to enter.

Two Officers had been admitted to pay their respects, when the servant announced the entrance of AN AUTHOR, who came to present a copy of his work, bound in red morocco, adorned with gilt edges, and his Lordship's arms impressed on the cover.

NOTHING

NOTHING can be more eloquent than a coat of arms richly blazoned on the cover of a book. Every thing is expressed at once; the coronet, OR; the field, ARGENT or AZURE; the crest; the supporters; the illustrious quarterings; every honour has its proper place and colour. If I had been born of noble parents, or if I were only rich, I would have a book dedicated and presented to me every year.

THE Author was a young man, and the book he presented, was his *virgin work*. A visible degree of confidence, therefore, beamed through the seeming diffidence and humility of his manners.

“WILL your Lordship deign to accept an humble tribute——”

“A TRIBUTE!—Oh! present it, if you please, to the Lady.”——

THE

THE countenance of the lady assumed the smile of indifference.

LADIES, however, are fond of gratifying their curiosity by the first inspection of a new performance; of admiring the pictures, if there should happen to be any; of reading the dedication, if it be short and spirited, especially if it should be in verse, and possess the happy point and lively turn of epigram.

"It is pretty—it is charming," said the Lady, after having read a few pages silently.

HIS Lordship desired the Author himself to read his work aloud. Fortunately, he read with great propriety, and the merit of his work was immediately felt: he was accordingly invited to dinner; and the book was placed conspicuously on the chimney-piece, to receive the honours of the day;—a happiness which every person did not so easily attain.

THE young Author, in the course of time, became celebrated for the excellence of his writings. His merit was encouraged by his Lordship's patronage, or rather by that of the Lady.

LET us then explain the story of his success.

THE MARCHIONESS DE M*** is one of those charming female characters who are destined to adorn the society in which they live ;—cherished, because they are as amiable in their manners as they are beautiful in their persons ; and constantly sought after, because their minds are as profound in wisdom as they are lively in wit.—Such characters never form, because they are incapable of forming, those dangerous connections which soon or late experience a rupture. Their visits are confined to a select number of families ; and they are never found but among a certain number of valuable friends.

THE

THE MARCHIONESS, however, possessed every charm capable of inspiring the warmest passion : a person formed with provoking symmetry from head to feet ; an enchanting smile, delicious lips, charming teeth, a swelling neck, a delicate hand, a beautiful arm, a fine shape, a voluptuous walk, a handsome leg, and petit feet. To these exterior perfections she joined an excellent understanding and a feeling heart, equally inclined to encourage the timidity of modest merit, and enabled to repress the boldness of confidence and the impertinence of vanity. She was far from being rich. She lived, indeed, in a state of separation from her husband, upon a moderate pension ; but being without caprices ; without those fantasies which lead to ruin ; and having no inclination for play, she lived happy and contented, above the reach of want.

THE MARCHIONESS was highly pleased with the manners of the young man ; that is, she conceived the warmest friendship for him ; and her behaviour to him discovered upon every

occasion the partiality of her heart. To acquire a more perfect knowledge of his character, she seized every opportunity of engaging his conversation; and was enchanted to find that he possessed the happiest disposition and the most estimable qualities.

DURING a happy moment, when the MARCHIONESS seemed to testify a more than ordinary degree of approbation, the young author hazarded the request, that she would permit him to pay his respects to her at her own house, and she immediately acceded to his solicitation.

IN consequence of this permission, he waited on the MARCHIONESS early in the noon of the ensuing day. She received him with every mark of politeness and attention, entered familiarly into conversation with him, engaged him to partake of the excellent but simple hospitality of her table, and by these repeated civilities induced him to prolong his visit until the approach of evening.

THE

THE fear of appearing too presumptuous prevented him from repeating his visit the next day ; but on the third day he again introduced himself with timidity and apprehension.

" I AM rejoiced to see you," exclaimed the MARCHIONESS ; " your company will form one of the pleasures of my life ; but I shall be sorry to engross too great a portion of your time. Make your visits entirely convenient to yourself. Come every day, if you please ; but do not permit my invitation to interrupt those hours which you have been accustomed to dedicate to composition and study. Whenever it shall happen that I do not dine at home, you shall receive notice of my engagement the preceding evening."

THE mind of the young man, naturally warm and ardent, was overwhelmed with rapture at this unexpected kindness. His present visit, however, was short ; but he

continued almost daily, during the course of three months, to frequent the house of his fair patroness; and frequently accompanied her to the houses of her intimate friends, to whose acquaintance she had introduced him.

HE felt himself the most happy of men!

BUT is it possible continually to enjoy the company and conversation of a lovely woman, as sensible in her mind as she is beautiful in her person, without becoming deeply enamoured of her charms?

THIS event happened.

ONE day the MARCHIONESS and the young Author had dined together *tête-à-tête*; a circumstance that did not frequently happen. During the course of their conversation, the energy with which she expressed her sentiments, appeared to testify a feeling beyond the inspiration of mere friendship; and the youth conceived it to be a most propitious moment

moment to make a lively declaration of his passion: a project which he had frequently determined to execute, from the first moment he beheld the MARCHIONESS.

He accordingly began in a hesitating tone :

" You will not, Madame, I hope, impute it to me as a crime, that I possess a heart—a sensibility—a mind capable of appreciating—No—alas !—Ah ! how is it possible one moment to behold you without adoring your charms !"——and he threw himself immediately on his knees at her feet.

" How !—Can this be you !"——exclaimed the MARCHIONESS with a smile :—" but listen attentively to the sentiments of my mind. If, with the notions of propriety that I entertain, I were to follow the conduct which most women under similar

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“ How !—Can this be you ! ”——exclaimed the MARCHIONESS with a smile :—“ but listen attentively to the sentiments of my mind. If, with the notions of propriety that I entertain, I were to follow the conduct which most women under similar

circumstances would pursue, you have furnished me with abundant reason to banish you for ever from my sight. The duty which the nuptial tie imposed, it is my pride and pleasure inviolably to perform. From this declaration, you will easily conceive, that if I felt the smallest degree of weakness in my heart, the dictates of prudence would forbid me any longer to admit your visits; but I am completely satisfied of the fortitude I possess. Friendship, and not love, is the passion I entertain for you. That you, however, should feel both love and friendship for me, is by no means displeasing; as the one will heighten the pleasure of our conversation; while the other, I flatter myself, will inspire the genius of your mind.—Yes, my dear friend, I feel no difficulty in acknowledging that these proofs of your attachment delight me; but you must restrain every expectation of receiving favours in any degree repugnant to the strictest propriety. The elegant productions of
that

that genius which I have contributed to inspire, I shall read with inexpressible delight. The prospect of being able to encourage the noblest exertions of your mind, will continue to flatter me ; and I am happy that my virtue, so far from being inconsistent with your success, will, on the contrary, promote it! —Continue therefore to indulge the passion for me you have warmly professed.—Let the flame of love be cherished in your heart.—You will afford me pleasure by convincing me of your sincerity: and be assured that you have at least one female friend, faithful to your interest, and anxious for your success ; who can sometimes applaud, without betraying you to yourself ; for I again acknowledge, that of all mankind you are the one for whom I entertain the greatest affection and most cordial esteem.—In short, it is necessary you should know, that we have never had a conversation with each other

other which has not been overheard from that place by the mother of the MARQUIS DE M***, whose apartment in this house adjoins to my own."

THIS information filled the mind of the young Author with equal confusion and surprise; and increased the affection he had conceived for his amiable patroness. He ceased to wonder that his Lordship should entertain so unbounded an esteem for the Marchioness, when he learned that the old Countess Dowager communicated to him every transaction that passed in the house of her daughter-in-law. He sought the path of glory which she had pointed out, and the praises of his patroness encouraged him to pursue it.

PICTURE

PICTURE THE SIXTEENTH.

THE MORNING.

O RISING Sun! bright star of life and
 light! by whose power all nature is re-
 vived! alas, the inhabitants of crowded cities
 are secluded from thy charms! They never
 view the golden glories of thy orient beams!
 They only feel the sultry influence of thy me-
 ridian fires, and never enjoy the soft warmth
 which the emanations of thy demi-orb pro-
 duce, when blended with the freshness of the
 morn. The noble mass of light reflected by thy
 horizontal rays, when first they kiss the roseate
 dew, is hidden from their sight. Of these in-
 chanting scenes, alas! I should have still con-
 tinued ignorant, if in my early youth, when
 Love's soft passion first inspired my heart, I
 had not climbed, before *Aurora's* dawn, among
 the

the cliffs of *Courgis*, *Cyr*, and *Chablis*; for since that happy time my eyes have never seen sweet Nature at her toilet.

THE BARON DE HOLMER had espoused the most beautiful of women: dignity of mien and regularity of feature vied with the Graces for superiority in her charming countenance, and made her the idol of his admiration. The mind of the divine ULRIQUE was caught by the tenderness of his manners, and his constant assiduities to please. She was now two-and-twenty years of age; her husband ten years older; but notwithstanding they had been married six years, he had never once partaken of the pleasures of the nuptial couch, or ravished one amorous kiss from her love-inspiring lips. The Baron, before he mounted his horse, whether to enjoy the pleasures of a ride, or to follow the joys of the chace, every morning entered the apartment of his wife, who, as her slumbers were undisturbed, in general rose early, and interrupted the business of the toilet
only

only to take her on his knee, and pour out the sentiments of admiration which her blooming charms inspired.

THE lovely ULRIQUE listened to his warmest expressions without feeling any correspondent emotions.

THE female bosom, to render it tender, and devoted to the object of its choice, must have been pierced with *Cupid's* sharpest arrow; and the heart of ULRIQUE never yet had felt the pleasing pains of love. The Son of *Venus*, it is said, every morning wept upon a bed of flowers which grew near to the entrance of the house.

THE motives which induced this admiring husband to adopt a conduct so singular and extraordinary were never publicly disclosed. But perhaps we may be able to collect them by comparison:—not that the following narrative contains the Baron's history, for we must suppose that he was influenced by motives more noble and refined; a resemblance, however,

however, may in some degree be traced between the two characters.

NOT long ago there lived at *Paris*, at the foot of *Pont-au-Change*, near the entrance to the *Quai de Gevres*, a Jeweller who had a very pretty wife. During his courtship she was the object of his highest admiration, and the inclinations of his heart alone induced him to offer her his hand in marriage.—His feelings, even as a husband, from the first moment of their union, were more completely gratified by the constant adulation which was bestowed upon the beauties of his wife by all who saw her, than she was herself. On the marriage evening, at the crisis when the concealing curtains of the nuptial bed invited the happy pair to taste of Hymeneal joys, *Ormanza* advanced towards his wife, and, throwing himself on his knees before her, “Tell me, my lovely wife,” he cried, “tell me what conduct you would wish me to adopt towards you? Is it your desire that I should
permit

permit you any longer to enjoy your blooming freshness, and your ripening beauties, adorned in all the charms which artful dress can furnish; in short, will you continue to enjoy the universal admiration you inspire? or are you willing that I should this very night reap the rich harvest, and expose you to the risque of seeing that *nymph-like* shape destroyed?"

He ceased.—

"MY dearest friend," replied his blushing wife, "the refined anxiety of love which thus anticipates the inclinations of my mind, redoubles my esteem. Yes, I do sincerely wish for every thing you now propose."

"I AM overwhelmed with joy," exclaimed *Ormanza*. "My charming bride! Oh! I shall adore you with increased respect. Never, oh never will I impress my inflaming kisses on those rosy lips; never shall my eager hand rove amorously across that panting bosom."

form. I would even interdict my eyes from gazing on that paradise of love, if looks had power to touch.—But, oh ! to gaze is profanation. Hallowed be thy heavenly charms ! I shall reverence them like a holy sanctuary, towards whose shrine my grosser senses are forbidden to approach.”—

HE ceased, bowed humbly to the feet of his virgin bride, and commending her to the nuptial bed, retired to rest in the adjoining chamber.

THE conduct of *Ormanza* to this period may be considered rather *singular* than *blameable*.

IT is an observation frequently made at *Paris*, that the ruin of husbands is in general occasioned by the extravagant vanity of their wives ; and the observation is thus far true : but when it is said, that the natural inclination of every female mind is to shine in a higher and more exalted sphere than they have the
means

means to support, the observation is more than one half false ; for it is the fashion of the present age for husbands to ruin themselves, by purchasing every expensive *finery* for their wives.

THE lowest tradesman, manufacturer, or mechanic, disdains to be seen abroad in the company of his wife, unless her person be decorated in the most superb and fashionable style of dress.

THE dress of the husband sometimes equals in finery that of his wife ; and sometimes, under the habit of a simple *drab*, he indulges the equally expensive, but more refined vanity of being thought—A LORD ; the grandeur of his wife being the thermometer by which he conceives the opinions of the world will be silently regulated with respect to *his* own importance.

I HAVE seen a *Stationer*, who had a very handsome wife, carry her to the *Champs Elisées*

in a *remise*; call her *Madame la Marquise*! and, after strutting about for several hours, return through the *Thuilleries*, get into the carriage at the opening of the *Pont Royal*, and tell the coachman to drive to the *Hotel* —.

“AYE, aye!” exclaimed immediately a Hawker of News-papers, who happened to know and overhear him, “To the shop in *Stationers-Alley*.” Happily, however, for the feelings of this ostentatious pair, the sarcasm was unheard.

THIS extravagant vanity of husbands to aggrandize the appearance of their wives, is at present the most prevailing vice of *Paris*, and the mode by which they in general effect their ruin.

I KNOW indeed an instance of a husband even quarrelling with his wife, in order to make her *barnefs* her person in the trappings of a woman of quality.

ORMANZA,

ORMANZA the jeweller, faithful to his promise, considered the person of his lovely wife as a curiosity for a cabinet, and restrained his violating hands from touching her, as much as if she had been a sacred object. She appeared to him a perfect idol, and he placed her in his shop only to be admired. She seldom rose from her bed till noon. The richest gauzes, the most beautiful muslins, linen of the finest fabric, were purchased for the decoration of her person. Decked out on Sundays in all the finery of dress, she walked abroad, lolling supinely on her husband's arm, while a poor country boy, his apprentice, of honest parents, was metamorphosed into the similitude of a lacquey to attend her; a character which he was made to assume whenever she was beyond the limits where there was a danger of her being known. The infatuated Jeweller one day happened to meet a friend richly dressed in the *Fauxbourg St. Honoré*, when, desiring his wife to accept the

assistance of his arm, he was even ridiculous enough to transform himself into the character of a lacquey, that she might appear to have two footmen at her heels: observing to the astonished boy, " You see I do not impose any thing upon you, that I am ashamed to do myself."

By a repetition of these absurdities, the heart of his wife was at length puffed up with pride, and her mind filled with vanity, impertinence and egotism.

ONE day, during the absence of ORMANZA, a rich merchant, who had for some time past been attentive to the lady, introduced himself to her company as she sat in the shop, and accommodating himself to the inclinations of her corrupted heart, immediately made her an offer of a snug house, a splendid coach, and, what was more tempting, a handsome annuity for life.

CONSCIOUS

CONSCIOUS that her husband's circumstances had been considerably diminished by the expensive purchases he had continually made, to enable her to imitate in her appearance the splendour of a duchess, she accepted without much hesitation the proposal her lover had made, and instantly decamped with him in the coach he had promised, to the office of a notary, for the purpose of ratifying the bargain; from whence they drove away to find the *snug retreat*.

ORMANZA, on his return home, found his wife was absent; and was informed by his boy, that she had accompanied a gentleman in a very fine coach, attended by two lacqueys of a different appearance from himself and his master, without leaving the least intimation where she was gone

THE merchant was not contented with merely admiring the charms of his lovely companion; and when he discovered the

platonie system which her husband had pursued, he tasted his pleasures with such exuberant delight, that the stipulated annuity was immediately increased. But he was a character so vitiated by debauchery, that at the expiration of three months he dismissed her from his embraces.

DURING the short interval of two years, MADAME ORMANZA passed through eight different hands; and the Town, finding she was disengaged, her attachments were for some time promiscuous. At length—terrible misfortune!—MADAME ORMANZA returned home wretched and diseased.—Remedies were successfully employed, and from that time she lived constantly with her husband. Instead, however, of being any longer her admiring servant, he became a harsh, contemptuous, and reproachful master.

THE story of the BARON DE HOLMER is extremely different from that contained in the preceding

preceding narrative; but the BARON had actually conceived the absurd idea of preserving the virgin freshness of his blooming wife, and of contenting her with the pleasures of PLATONIC LOVE. Happily for him, the BARONESS is not an *Italian Lady*.—Let him, however, take care of our voluptuous *Sybarites*.

P. S. WE have this moment received information that a nobleman, of higher rank than the BARON, having paid particular attention to the BARONESS, it alarmed the mind of her husband to so great a degree, that he immediately adopted a different mode of conduct, and the lovely ULRIQUE is now—pregnant.

PICTURE THE SEVENTEENTH.

THE RACE-GROUND.

“HOW! ride another way! and not go to the Course to see the horses start, and bet your money on the race!”

“No,” replied the young DUKE DE D***, “I do not feel the least taste for this species of pleasure, which we have borrowed entirely from the *English*, although certain persons would willingly persuade us that it is of national utility; as if the swiftness of their racers would mend the paces of our post-horses, or improve the discipline of our horse dragoons and light hussars. Matters of much higher importance than the breeding of racers, and the encouragement of gambling, should engage the public mind; or, at least, they ought to be exclusively confined to the *casernes*.”

“You

"YOU are wonderfully philosophical to-day," replied the COUNT DE M***; "there must be some secret reason for all this."

THE DUKE smiled.— "Perhaps," said he, "I may have a motive for leaving the Race-ground; and perhaps I may not."

"THE lovely object—will she be there?"

"I CAUGHT a sight of her as I passed the booth.—"

"AND do you fly from her?"

"WITH infinite regret."

"THIS passion seems to produce very whimsical effects."

"YOU shall be my only confidant, because I am really in want of one. Our friendship alone would not have induced me to disclose to you the secrets of my heart.—Listen then—The lovely charmer shines with superior lustre amidst that select assembly of youth
and

and beauty, like the sovereign *Rose* amidst surrounding flowers in *Flora's* fairest garden. The COUNT DE G*** is sitting by her side, and, no longer concealing the partiality of his heart, seems, by public'y proclaiming it, determined to disperse his numerous rivals. Faithless LAURA! She promised, that a *green ribband*, in token of her love, should ever after form a portion of her dress; but to-day she no longer wears the happy emblem, and means by this neglect to banish every hope and comfort from my mind. The COUNT is young and handsome, amiable in his manners, high in rank; the heart of LAURA will be flattered by his attentions, and vanity will perhaps expel the sentiments of love.

He sighed——.

THE COUNT endeavoured to afford the balm of consolation to his wounded heart.

“No, no,” replied the DUKE, “I must endure the torments that I feel.—But you may render me an important service! Haste to yonder

yonder booth, endeavour to approach the faithless fair, engage her attention, and by some happy hint, which she alone will understand, inform her, if it be possible, that you have seen me, and that her perfidy has driven me away."

THE COUNT promised to perform every thing the DUKE required; and mounting his horse, which his servant held in waiting at a distance, he immediately rode before the booth.

LAURA observed her lover's friend, and called him to her. "You are not come from *Paris*, are you?"

"My companion and my friend is going there."

"WHAT, the——"

"YES, Madam, 'tis he himself."

"I CAUGHT a glimpse of him this moment. Tell him from me, that he would have won the bet."

WHILE

WHILE she uttered this sentence, LAURA displayed her *zone* (which was a rich ribband of the brightest green, but which the Duke had overlooked).

EAGER to convey such welcome tidings, the COUNT hastily quitted the booth, and immediately galloped after his noble friend; but his endeavours to overtake him were without effect.

THE DUKE, instead of going the direct road to *Paris*, wandered, like other hapless lovers, round and round the spot from which he meant to fly; and while the anxious COUNT was seeking him in the metropolis, he was sauntering behind the back part of the booth, concealed from view.

THE celebrated horse belonging to the DUKE DE C*** had just started from the post, and while the dexterous rider's jockeyship to win the match fixed the attention of the

the spectators, the wandering lover strolled near enough to LAURA to behold her zone.

THE effect which this discovery produced in his mind was equally sudden and delightful. When he advanced toward her, only a few minutes before, he was the most miserable of men; but he now retired the happiest of human beings. Immediately placing himself within the observation of his fair enslaver, a shy but sweet and tender smile confirmed his happiness, and filled his bosom with transports of unbounded joy. He entered the booth, and approached the object of his love.—

“TO-NIGHT,—” said he,—“I go.—”

“YES,” was the answer he received, while her face was turned another way.

THE DUKE immediately departed from the booth, and at the *Barrière du Trône*, for the Race-ground was in the road to *Vincennes*, he met

met the COUNT returning from *Paris*, where he had been making the most diligent enquiries after his friend.

"I BRING you the happiest tidings!" exclaimed the COUNT.

"I HAVE heard them already," replied the lover.

THE COUNT then related what he had *seen*, and the DUKE communicated what he had *heard*; and these circumstances produced between them the most unbounded confidence.

THE two friends returned in the company of each other to *Paris*.

"I MUST," exclaimed the DUKE, whose soul was overpowered by the abundance of his joy, "I must discover to you the situation of my heart, and repose, without reserve, the latent story of my love within your friendly bosom. The charms of LAURA engaged my affections from the first moment that I beheld her, and I employed all the assiduities of love

to gain her heart : an endeavour which I have some reason to believe has been attended with success. The declaration of my passion has been followed, in all our subsequent conversations, by reflections on the mutual pleasures with which the bonds of marriage would crown our love. The reciprocal caresses we should enjoy were the pleasing sentiments which filled our minds ; and the idea of becoming, by the constancy of our affection, a bright example of conjugal felicity, inspired our hearts. But, alas ! we soon found that our matrimonial union was impracticable. The tyranny of despair obliterated every hope from our minds, and the only consolation that remained was derived from the frequent interviews which we continued to have. Fortunately no rival candidate solicited my *Laura's* hand ; and as my parents had not affianced me to any particular object, we continued at least free from the dreadful misfortune of being united to objects our hearts would have abhorred.

“WHILE

WHILE we remained in this situation, the happiest accident that could befall a lover brought us one day close together at *Mass*. Our looks were stedfastly fixed on each other; the eyes of LAURA were warm, tender, and full of love; mine sparkled with correspondent flames; and as I seized her lovely hand, she raised mine, and pressed it to her heart. Encouraged by this precious favour, I again seized her hand, and at the moment the priest was pronouncing the holy benediction, I exclaimed in a voice sufficiently loud for her to hear, "ALMIGHTY God, thus in thy presence I devote myself to her, as her husband."—"And I," replied the lovely LAURA, "devote myself to him as his wife."—The sanctity of this reply justified the temerity of my conduct; she supported herself upon my arm when we quitted the chapel; and, seizing a lucky moment, I impressed the kiss of conjugal fidelity on her charming lips.—But how shall I reveal the sequel of our union!"—

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F

"You

"You must disclose the whole, my noble friend, if you mean that I should serve you."

"OH! I have no longer need of your assistance,—'tis done already!"

"How!"

"FRIENDSHIP alone, and not necessity, now communicates to your confidential bosom the secret of my heart.—I continued to adore the lovely LAURA, and she returned my fondness with an equal flame.—I frequently urged to her that we were married."

"ALAS! we are," she tenderly replied.

"A HUSBAND then has rights," said I.

"Too dangerous," she replied, "to be consummated under a union like ours."

"THEY must not be relinquished: you will be guilty of a crime against the laws of *Love and Hymen*."

"THEN

" THEN let the laws of *Love* and *Hymen* be my guide."—And she was obedient to their dictates.

" ONE evening she conducted me with secrecy to her chamber, for she had not then a confidant. Oh! night of bliss! which raised my soul to more than heavenly joys.—But reflection filled the mind of my beloved LAURA with unceasing inquietude.

" THE rich and beautiful Lady Dowager CH*** being at this time warmly attached to the interests of LAURA, she related to her the story of our love, from its commencement to the present time. The Marchioness, who possessed a cultivated understanding, was at this period two and thirty years of age, and had passed through many scenes of life; but neither her experience nor her wit were capable of suggesting any means to extricate us from our embarrassed situation.

" THE genius of LAURA at length devised a resource.

“ ONE morning, when my soul had tasted of more than mortal happiness, “ My “ dear lord,” said she, “ it is now become “ necessary that we should adopt some decisive “ measure. There is one, and one alone, “ presents itself to my mind, which is, “ that you should immediately espouse my “ friend the Marchioness, who, though “ more than twelve years older than your- “ self, may feign herself with child, and afford “ to us the dear and precious opportunity “ of imposing the infant, which I shall soon “ produce you, upon the world as your true and “ lawful heir. The secret of its birth will be “ confined to the knowledge of your wife alone; “ and under these circumstances, judge how “ much my affection for the lovely offspring “ will be increased ; and with what superior “ happiness I shall reflect that I am its “ mother.”

“ I MADE some objections, on account of the difficulty and danger of preventing the secret from being known; but one word

word from LAURA's lips at once removed them all.

"THE project was confidentially communicated to the Marchioness; and as she immediately acceded to the proposal, I had nothing more to say upon the subject.

"You will recollect, my dear friend, how much the world were astonished at my marriage, and with what wit they ridiculed the idea of an attachment to my supposititious bride; but the fact is, that she is not my wife; for LAURA and myself, the day before the nuptial ceremony was performed, protested in the presence of Almighty God against the union. The Duchess is my *friend*, but not my *wife*; and for this reason my attachment to her will continue for ever undiminished. Ah! she is indeed a friend! the most tender, the most generous of friends! She is virtue itself; for this wife, my friend, is superior to the weakness and inclinations of

her sex. The lovely LAURA has already produced me two children, a boy and a girl. New pleasures fill my mind when I reflect that I am the author of the happiness which I observe she enjoys ; a happiness which perhaps the situation of her children, more than myself, contributes to inspire. Oh ! I should expire with grief if I thought she entertained an inclination for another."

" OH ! how can you suspect her love," exclaimed the COUNT, dissolved in tears, " after an experience of the circumstances you have now related !"

" BUT why, my friend, this soft emotion and these falling tears ?"

" BECAUSE," replied the COUNT, " the story of your misfortunes is blended with my own."

" How ! with yours, my friend ?"

" YES,

"YES, with mine, and 'tis your story that has divulged them to me. I am only two years older than yourself, and I have long in vain adored the Marchioness, whom you have married. Judge, therefore, of the security with which this singular confidence will repose within my breast."

"CAN this be possible? And did you tell your love?"

"No, she is ignorant of the affection I entertained for her, and never now shall know the inclinations of my heart."

SUCH was the mutual confidence with which these friends reposed their secrets in each other's breasts.

THE DUKE was in the evening admitted to the chamber of his charming LAURA.

THE COUNT, it is said, was tempted to pay a visit to the Duchess, and the charms of his beloved object lent his tongue an elo-

quence which soon disclosed *the secret* with which he had been intrusted. The happy interview was passed in pleasing conversation; for the Duchess informed her lover, that she had conceived, even under her present situation, a *maternal* affection for the character of the DUKE, and found the sphere to which she was exalted too pleasing to destroy.

THE Duchess kept the promise she had made, and so did LAURA also.

PICTURE

PICTURE THE EIGHTEENTH.

THE WAGER WON.

I T was near a superb *château*——

BUT why is it that the pleasures of the country are not more innocent than those of the town?

I COULD never endure the practice, which prevailed in the age of *chivalry*, of women inciting the combatants to deeds of blood; nor the manners of the present age, when *heroines* aspire to rank among the votaries of war, and lovers of the chase. The female bosom is an asylum where soft humanity and gentle tenderness should always dwell. Perish those wicked beauties the C—TES, the R—RS, and the DES—LES, those intriguing tyrants of the court, who enslave and sacrifice a thousand hearts, merely to indulge the pleasures of their inordinate

inordinate vanity, and gratify their unfeeling caprice. Such characters are no longer intitled to the privileges of their sex. They are a race of *monsters*, and ought to be extirpated.

Two females observed, from a balcony which commanded a prospect of the circumjacent country, a covey of innocent partridges running with their red and rapid feet along a field of stubble that adjoined the park. One of the birds, a faithless cock, appeared to bestow his dalliance with equal fondness on several favorites. At this moment a sportsman, young and beautiful as the God of Love, and armed with bow and arrows, passed by. The ladies pointed out the guilty bird; and demanded vengeance from his skilful shaft.

"I WILL lay a *wager*," replied the sportsman, "that I pierce him through the heart; but to make it worth my winning, I shall be glad to know how my dexterity is to be recompensed."

"WHAT wager do you propose?"

"I REQUIRE

"I REQUIRE neither honours nor riches ; the favours of the fair are all I wish for. What reward therefore are you willing to bestow if I revenge your insulted sex by the death of this faithless lover ?"

THE question created some embarrassment ; and the ladies consulted for some time with each other, but made no reply.

"I EXPECT then," replied the sportsman, who was impatient to shew his skill, "to receive *the heart* of her whose bosom is most endued with tenderness, in recompence of that which I am now about to pierce ; and the other shall become the confidant of our love.

"IT will be my friend then," replied the tallest of the ladies.

"I WAIT your command to draw my arrow to its head," said the sportsman.

"DRAW," exclaimed the lady.

AT

THE word was no sooner uttered than the bow twanged, the arrow flew; and transfixed the heart of the faithless bird, in the moment while he attempted to vary and repeat his guilty joys.

THE sportsman picked up the bird, expiring in a flutter of amorous delight, and, holding it in his hand, exhibited his victim, with the arrow through its heart, to the sight of the ladies.

"APPROACH a little nearer," cried the tallest, advancing her hand, and receiving the dying bird, "that I may see it better."

"How pitiable," observed her friend, "to destroy the life of so beautiful an animal!"

"A FAITHLESS creature deserves no pity," replied the tallest. "Sir, you are, I presume, a Gentleman of the neighbourhood, will you walk in and rest yourself?"

THE sportsman did not require a second invitation, but, advancing toward the open door

door of the balcony, ascended in a moment to the ladies.

THE tenderest heart possessed the fairest face. Her symmetry was divine, her well-proportioned leg voluptuous; for the sportsman had advanced so quick upon them, that they had not quitted the ballustrade over which they were obliged to lean; and when they saw him look with such admiring eyes, they retired covered with blushes and confusion.

"I HAVE won the wager," exclaimed he, "but I will receive no payment but that which shall arise from a sense of my obedience to your commands."

"BUT why shew us any favours, Sir?" replied the tallest; "we will not receive any." In uttering these words she drew from a little casket a heart studded with diamonds, the trinket which usually decorated the bosom of her fair friend, and presented it to the sportsman.

"You

"YOU deceive me!" he exclaimed, "this is not the heart that I alluded to; it belongs perhaps to you, and not MADAME."

"No.—This belongs to MADEMOISELLE DE VIENNE; and here is mine. There are cyphers upon both of them, and you may easily distinguish, by observing the initial letters, to whom they respectively belong. I am the MARCHIONESS DE GRANDE PRE."

THE mind of the sportsman, on hearing the name DE VIENNE mentioned, appeared greatly interested, and remained for some time absorbed in silence.

THE superior lustre of her charms had touched his heart, and he preferred——But it is necessary to make the character of this sportsman known.

HE was the son and heir to the DUKE DE F***, and enjoyed the honorary title of COUNT DE CH***. The tenderness with which his father loved him was equally inspired
by

by the ties of consanguinity and his own extraordinary merits. The anxiety of his parents had been successfully employed to render him the most accomplished character of his age; and the only remaining wish of their hearts was to see him happily married. The Duke had mentioned a rich heiress to him, but finding the heart of the young Count not at present inclined to matrimony, he thought it prudent not to expose to his aversion the name and character of the lady whom he secretly designed to make his future wife. To discover his taste, and attract his attention to the sex, young girls, each possessing a different style of beauty, were frequently dressed in all the elegance of fashion, and presented to his view, in such a way as to prevent his speaking to them or seeing them again; but the heart of the Count seemed insensible of their charms, and not one, of all the various beauties he beheld, attracted his admiration

or

or regard. Measures, however, were silently and progressively taken to accomplish the main design.

THE Count one day overheard his affectionate parents mention the name of MADEMOISELLE DE VIENNE ; and, on listening to their conversation, he found they entertained different opinions on this subject. The praises of the Duke were lavishly bestowed upon another lady, whose name he mentioned ; but the Duchefs maintained the superiority, both in person and mind, which MADEMOISELLE DE VIENNE possessed ; and particularized her merits in the warmest strains of panegyric. The Count reflected, that as his parents seemed to be at variance with each other as to a proper object of their choice, no great danger was immediately to be apprehended, and therefore the discussion made but a transient impression on his mind.

THE

THE period, however, at length arrived, when the effect of their scheme was to be tried. They accordingly proposed to the Count, in very direct terms, a lady, who, from the disagreeableness of her manners, they were certain he would immediately refuse; accompanying the proposal by artful animadversions on the comparative merits of *MADemoiselle de Vienne*. The Count was soon afterwards introduced into company where *MADemoiselle de Vienne* was present; and the first moment he beheld her, the feelings of his bosom acknowledged the truth of those praises he had heard; but not knowing that she was the selected fair-one whom his parents approved of as his future wife, he concealed the sentiments of his mind, and avoided all discovery of the emotion she had raised in his heart.

Two years passed silently away, when the Duke, to effectuate the project of their union, visited an estate in the neighbourhood

of that on which **MADemoiselle de Vienne** resided with her relation the **MARChioness de Grandpre**.

THE father and son agreed that each of them should respectively take one of these estates as the range of his sport.

THE ladies, upon the appointed day, anxiously waited in expectation of seeing the Count, whom they only knew by conjecture ; nor did he, from the distance of time which had elapsed since his former transient interview, recollect them again.

BUT it is now necessary for us to return to the sportsman, who had accepted the invitation, and introduced himself to the ladies.

PREVIOUS to the interruption of our narrative, we related that the **Duchess** had mentioned the name of **MADemoiselle de Vienne** for the wife of her son : this circumstance immediately occurred to the mind of the Count, and afforded him the highest pleasure.

“ I AM

"I AM the COUNT DE CH***," replied he, "and I accept this heart, as a pledge for that of the lady with whom alone I laid my wager."

WHILE he spoke these words, he received the heart studded with diamonds which MADemoiselle DE VIENNE usually wore in her handkerchief, and immediately retired.

"WON'T you take some refreshment with us, *Monsieur le Comte*?" said the Marchioness. "A sportsman ought to have a keen appetite, and you have several miles to go."

THE Count, however, was too anxious to return, in order to converse with the Duchess his mother respecting the mention she had made of MADemoiselle DE VIENNE: he accordingly returned them thanks with great politeness for their hospitable invitation, and took his leave: a refusal which created some surprize in the minds of the ladies.

THE Count, on his return home, immediately addressed himself to his mother: "Madame, you are acquainted with MADemoiselle DE VIENNE, and I am sure you entertain for her the highest esteem; I have this moment seen her at the Castle of GRANDPRE. Her charms delight me, and I am ready to obey whatever you shall in this respect command."

"My dear son," replied the Duchess, "I have long wished to unite you with that amiable girl; but the Duke your father—I will however speak to him upon this subject, and use my utmost endeavours to procure his consent.—But do not rely too confidently on my success."

"ALAS!" exclaimed the Count, "if I am deprived of this amiable object, I feel that I shall be miserable the remainder of my life."

THE

THE Duchefs infused these doubts, and contrived the means of preventing the immediate acquiescence of the Duke, in hopes that their affected reluctance might increase the flame which love had lighted in the bosom of their son; and their endeavours were ultimately crowned with success.

A SECOND interview with MADEMOISELLE DE VIENNE confirmed the passion her merits had inspired, and after the factitious impediments had operated their full effect, consent was given, and the ceremony performed.

ON the evening of the nuptial day, while they led the happy pair to the temple of Hymen, the Duchefs thus addressed them :

“ You have long been destined to each other’s arms. From her earliest infancy the father of my charming daughter and the Duke interchanged their solemn promises to each other, that time should make you one. He was our most intimate friend, and his daughter has ever occupied an equal portion of

my heart. Render her completely blessed, my son.—Render my lovely daughter completely happy; and may your bosoms eternally glow with an affection equal to the increasing friendship by which the hearts of your respective fathers were united!

PICTURE

PICTURE THE NINETEENTH.

THE WHIST PLAYERS.

A **H A T** trimmed with flowers concealed the cunning looks of a sharpening and handsome female card-player. A **BARONESS**, who was her left-hand adversary, listened to the observations of a **MARQUIS**, who sat eagerly watching, by the assistance of his glass, the progress of the game. The **COUNT**, her husband, sat on her right hand, engaged in conversation with the young and lovely **MARCHIONESS**, as she stood, overlooking the cards, by his side. The **PRESIDENT**, her partner, held his cards with as much gravity as if they had been briefs in chancery suits, and seemed to look for information in the eyes of all around.

THE COUNT, whose attention was diverted to the young and blooming MARCHIONESS, was, without doubt, in danger of committing some mistake.

THUS it was that six lovers amused themselves at the close of the eighteenth century. Barren of conversation, they resorted to cards; for cards dispenses with all the exertion that wit, reason, sentiment and love require! *Vive le jeu!*

“WHAT do you think of it?” said the COUNTESS to the MARQUIS.

“I WILL go your halves, if you please, for you play a sure and certain game.”

“WHY won't you play, my charming lady?” said the COUNT, addressing himself to the MARCHIONESS.

“You know that my husband is——”

“I KNOW

"I KNOW that he loves to win, but we can arrange the party to his inclination."

"BUT I am engaged to the PRESIDENT," replied the MARCHIONESS; "and he always loses."

"OBSERVE," continued the COUNT, "how the COUNTESS eyes him. She is about to play some unexpected stroke.—We must place the PRESIDENT with the BARONESS; the MARQUIS shall have the COUNTESS; and *you* and *I* will be partners. We are matched at present, without knowing it, against all common sense. I will propose this new arrangement; our merits will be more equally matched, and then our little society will still continue. Wherever we play, we will go each other's halves."

THE MARCHIONESS smiled assent.

WHEN the rubber was finished, the COUNT proposed the new arrangement to the company,

pany, and explained the motives which induced him to make it. The propriety of the change underwent a serious discussion, and was at length consented to.

THE BARONESS was extremely handsome, and she bowed with graceful form towards her new partner, the PRESIDENT.

THE air of *sineffe* which distinguished the manners of the COUNTESS, rendered her striking; and the MARQUIS eyed her with close attention.

As for the charming MARCHIONESS, every thing had been previously settled between her and the COUNT.

THE ladies rose, as if in concert; they presented their fair hands, on which their respective partners impressed a kiss; and the phalanx being thus composed, they separated to enjoy the pleasures of society.

THE

THE new association between the MARCHIONESS and the COUNT was not productive of very happy effects. The dexterity of the COUNTESS was for ever successful ; the BARONESS sometimes won, and sometimes lost : but the charming MARCHIONESS was invariably unfortunate.

To the lively sensibility by which her character was distinguished and adorned, she joined a rigid and inflexible integrity, and the idea of *cheating* never once occurred to her mind. A mad enthusiastic love of play, however, filled her breast ; but it was founded on a temporary delusion, the fashionable foible of the day ; and was far from being an innate passion of her heart. Surrounded by a society unsusceptible of the delicate sentiments which adorn honourable minds, her principles were so entirely absorbed, that she required some sudden shock to remind her of the dangers to which she was exposed.

THE

THE inclination she felt for play, was frequently indulged at a certain house in the *Place des Victoires*, where while the adversity of her fortune was sufficient to excite a degree of sympathy in every disinterested breast, the company beheld her ill luck with malignant pleasure, and seized the opportunity of taking those advantages to which, from her embarrassments, she was now exposed.

THE COUNT, although extremely rich, did not chuse any longer to support her ill fortune, by supplying her necessities; and abandoned her in the midst of her distress.

“ I WILL never play again !” exclaimed the MARCHIONESS; and happy had it been for her if she had kept her word.

ONE evening, while, with eyes that seemed to devour the cards, she fatally overlooked the party who were engaged in play at this house, a man, destitute of every principle of honour, but possessed of a slender fortune, who had learnt the art
of

of adapting his expences to the occasion, and sometimes of encreasing his revenue by disposing of the little credit he had acquired, fixed his eyes attentively upon her for some time.

"You burn with inclination to play, my lovely Marchioness," said he; "I entertain a strong *presentiment* that you will win. Here," continued he, sliding a rouleau adroitly into her hand, "is something that will enable you to try your luck; and I will go your halves in every thing you win or lose." Without waiting for her reply, he immediately formed a party, at a table which at that moment became vacant by the absence of two of the company who were going away.

THE MARCHIONESS accordingly sat down to play; and, wonderful reverse! she won twice the sum which had been lent to her. The amount of the lucky loan was immediately restored, and she went away in tumults of joy at the extraordinary good fortune she had so unexpectedly experienced.

THE

THE ensuing day she renewed her visit to this seat of fortune. CHENEFORT, the person who had lent her the money the preceding evening, was also there ; and although his personal appearance was mean, contemptible and disgusting, she beheld him with looks of complacency and smiles of joy. The character of this man was entirely unknown to her ; but such is the powerful influence of the passion which occupied her heart, that she felt herself flattered by the attentions of a man, the habits of whose life, she learned, was a daily endeavour to enrich himself by the lowest practices of money-lending and stock-jobbing.

THE MARCHIONESS gained very little at this sitting ; yet still she won something ; and fate seemed no longer invariably to persecute her. Success inspired her mind with confidence, and flattered her with hope ; but at length, after eight days of uninterrupted prosperity, she again experienced a cruel reverse.

AT the commencement of the evening fortune fluctuated for some time, but at the conclusion

clusion of the play she had finally lost—five hundred *Louis d'ors*. This sum amounted to more than her present funds enabled her to pay; but CHENEFORT was behind her chair, ready to afford her assistance.

“To prevent the company from supposing that I assist you in the character of a lover,” said CHENEFORT to her in a low whisper, “affect to pledge your diamonds and your jewels with me for the money you wish to raise, in the same manner as you have seen other players, under like circumstances, do; for it is necessary to preserve your honour from suspicion. Do not, however, be anywise discouraged by this circumstance; for you may rest assured I will restore them to you again.”

By this perfidious language the feelings of the unfortunate MARCHIONESS were in some degree tranquillized.

THE MARCHIONESS, on taking her leave of the company, not being willing to disclose to CHENEFORT the place of her residence, accepted

accepted his hand, and, in expectation of her jewels being restored, consented to go to his house; her coach waiting for her before his door.

“CHARMING woman!” exclaimed he, “I will sustain the losses you have met with, and the jewels and diamonds I have received shall be immediately restored to you, provided you will grant me only one favour.”

He particularized the odious condition he proposed!

THE eyes of the MARCHIONESS were now opened to his views, and the recollection of her situation filled her mind with every horrid idea! She employed every innocent art which she thought might move the bosom of this monster, but he remained callous to her intreaties, and steadfast to his purpose.

To whom was she to address herself in such an emergency? She had no one, alas! to whose advice she could apply but those former friends
whose

whole pernicious examples had occasioned her embarrassment. A situation so alarming she had never before experienced; and having during the remainder of the evening exhausted every endeavour to regain her jewels without success, she resolved to quit the house, and relinquish them intirely to the deceitful CHENEFORT.

THE inhuman villain signified to her that she was not now her own mistress.—

THE baseness of this insinuation raised the feelings of the MARCHIONESS to the highest pitch of indignation; and running hastily to the window, she called aloud to her attendants; but unfortunately the coachman and the two footmen had fallen fast asleep.

CHENEFORT succeeded in his endeavours to draw her from the window, by pointing to a *boudoir*, into which she permitted him to conduct her, under the idea of being then able to make her escape. No sooner, however, had

the brutal monster secured her in this retreat, than he told her that he was equally in possession of both her diamonds and her honour, being determined to detain her until her absence from home should induce her husband to enquire where she was, and that he would then justify her detention by declaring, that she had endeavoured to force the jewels from his just possession, without giving him an equivalent security.

THE madness of despair seized the mind of the afflicted MARCHIONESS; and she was for some time unconscious of what she did.—At length, after struggling amidst a conflict of passions—“Well, inhuman monster!” she exclaimed, “then satisfy your appetite.”—But we must draw a veil over the remainder of this odious scene.—

ABOUT the hour of eight in the morning, in the broad face of day, the MARCHIONESS left the

the house of CHENEFORT. A *femme de charge* attended her to her carriage; and she reached home with a mind distracted by the recollection of what had happened; passed the remainder of the day in painful solitude; and never afterward appeared in public.

THE poignancy of her grief however, which during a long interval preyed upon her health, at length in some degree subsided; and her spirits were beginning to taste the pleasures of returning tranquillity, when CHENEFORT was detected in the commission of an atrocious crime, for which, on being brought to justice, he was condemned to die.

WHAT an accumulation of shame to the mind of the afflicted MARCHIONESS; a shame, cruelly increased by a letter which she received from the miserable convict, in which he

ostentatiously told her, that the remembrance of the happy night he had passed with her, placed him above the reach of infamy.

THE violence with which this blow assailed the feelings of the MARCHIONESS was dreadful indeed ! A long and painful life was drawn out into lingering sufferance. Those days which would otherwise have been devoted to the enjoyments of pleasure, were passed in tears, in the anguish of solitary retirement, interrupted only by the presence of a husband, whose mind had been rendered inexorable by dark rumours of the disgrace he had suffered.

SUCH is the miserable situation in which the MARCHIONESS at this moment exists.

As to the COUNTESS, her career of play was stopped, by being excluded from every society where play was practised.

THE

THE BARONESS was, in the course of time, married to the PRESIDENT, who treated her with harshness and disrespect.

To conclude : *Gamblers* of every description are the most contemptible characters in society ; but when a passion for play infects the female bosom, it converts the loveliest part of God's creation into a race of MONSTERS.

PICTURE THE TWENTY

THE END

O! Love! thou universal charm of nature! by thy influence the hearts of men are raised to the felicity of Gods! Ah! what mortal can complain of human miseries, whose bosom once has glowed with thy inspiring flame!

Love, it is said, is no longer a tender passion; and that its pure and genuine flame is quite extinguished. There are the selfish means of cold calculating minds; of ambitious views, who only see the darkened side of things. The delightful colours of the peach escape their observation, because they never saw the side made blooming by the sun.

PICTURE THE TWENTIETH.

YES OR NO.

O H! Love! thou universal charm of nature! by thy influence the hearts of men are raised to the felicity of Gods! Ah! what mortal can complain of human miseries, whose bosom once has glowed with thy inspiring flame!

LOVE, it is said, is no longer a tender passion; and that its pure and genuine flame is quite extinguished. These are the sentiments of cold unfeeling minds; of fastidious critics, who only see the darkened side of things. The delightful colours of the peach escape their observation, because they never view the side made blooming by the sun.

The intoxicating pleasures which tender bosoms feel, daily contradict their false assertions; and even the wounded spirits of unhappy lovers often curse the treacherous security into which these senseless reasoners have betrayed their hopes.

At the sculptured base of an elevated statue, representing the God of Love with his finger on his lips, as the emblem of secrecy and discretion, an ardent lover poured out the lively feelings of his soul.

“DIVINE arbiters of my fate, decide my happiness or my misery—speak—say—YES OR NO.——”

THE MARCHIONESS cast a look of tenderness towards her lover, and while her lips contradicted the inclinations of her heart, said,—“NO.——”

HAPPILY she said “NO;” for the restless feelings of a jealous mind had urged the
COUNTESS

COUNTESS OF FL*** to attend their steps, and the NO which the MARCHIONESS had pronounced, infused the balm of comfort into her wounded heart.

"No!" exclaimed the young PRINCE DE N***, "and is my fate for ever then decided?"

"Yes," replied the MARCHIONESS, while a tear of love stole gently down her cheek—"my duty—"

"Oh! I venerate that falling tear. I shall remember it with respect.——"

"We must separate, and never, never meet again.——"

"Do you desire it?"

"Yes—I entreat that you will leave me."

THE young PRINCE rose suddenly from his seat; and walking hastily away, turned round a thousand

thousand times, to look once more towards the spot to which, perhaps, he would have soon returned—perhaps have—but he observed the jealous COUNTESS, and hurried fast away.

THE cruel separation which the MARCHIONESS had imposed, was too painful for the PRINCE to support, and his health became the victim of his feelings. The more he suffered, however, the more he felt the sacrifice he had made, and applauded his resolution.

THE PRINCE was, in a distant degree, related to the MARCHIONESS; and having, during their infancy, been educated with each other, in all the intercourse that was consistent with the difference of their sex, an innocent but indelible attachment had reciprocally taken place in their hearts.

He was at this time a younger son, and during his absence from his father's house, the young MARQUIS DE B***, son of the DUKE DE ***, was introduced to MADE-

MOISELLE

MOISELLE DE N***, and soon afterwards received her hand in marriage.

SIX months subsequent to this union, the PRINCE, on his return home, waited on his charming cousin, in expectation that she would receive him with the highest rapture and delight; but, alas! it was with sorrow and regret.

EXPRESSING his surprize at this unexpected reception, he requested with great anxiety that its mystery might be explained; and at the end of three days was informed, that the conduct of the MARCHIONESS had been occasioned by the recollection that *she* was now married, and the knowledge that *he* still adored her; for he had openly declared to her all the feelings of his soul.

THE MARCHIONESS, apprehensive that she possessed a reciprocal inclination, fearfully forbore to examine the state of her heart; and, confiding in the wise counsels of the mother of the PRINCE, she communicated

municated to her the declaration her son had made, and earnestly entreated her to use every endeavour to stem the progress of a passion which had so sensibly affected her heart.

THE mother of the PRINCE conveyed a powerful admonition to her son in few words: "Suppose," said she to him, "that the MARCHIONESS DE B*** was beloved with equal fondness by any other person, would your mind be satisfied that she should gratify inclination at the expence of her honour?"

"NO, MADAME," replied the young PRINCE.—But reason was soon silenced by the superior powers of love.

THE COUNTESS OF FL***, a young and amiable widow, had long felt an inviolable attachment to the PRINCE, and her friends had made proposals to his mother on the subject of their union. The alliance being in every respect extremely desirable, the proposals were received with approbation, and every means were used by the mother to
excite

excite a reciprocal attachment on the part of her son.

ON the very day when the PRINCE had received the laconic admonition from his mother, the COUNTESS had been invited to her house; and it was after dining together at the same table, that the PRINCE had met the MARCHIONESS and COUNTESS in the garden, in the manner we have already described.

THE PRINCE had indulged a fond idea, that by a conversation with the MARCHIONESS some happy mode might be adopted, by which he would be enabled to unite the desires of love with the duties of friendship; but the peremptory and decisive answer which the MARCHIONESS had given him, immediately banished every hope from his mind. The respect he entertained for the superiority of her virtue, and the purity of his own friendship,

friendship, made him resolve to obey the commands he had received; but he soon found that he had performed a sacrifice which was likely to endanger his life.

THE severity of real grief is a malady that disorders every function of the soul, produces spasms in every organ of the body, suspends all the active powers of the heart, and, if unalleviated, destroys, by impeding the circulation, the energies of life.

THE sorrows which affected the bosom of the PRINCE began to prey upon his health. The idea that the MARCHIONESS was another's, presented itself incessantly to his mind; and particularly recurred with cruel force in dreams upon his pillow: for during sleep, the suspension of the corporeal powers renders the unresisted impressions of the mind more keen and active, the agitations of the breast more lively and acute, and sorrow then assumes its most afflicting aspect,

THE

THE

THE virtuous PRINCE however, fearful of giving pain, carefully concealed his situation from the knowledge of his mother, who beheld his despondency with sincere regret, but was ignorant of the silent inroad its cause had made upon his health. One soft word or tender look from the lovely MARCHIONESS, in the early period of his disorder, would have revived his drooping soul; but being now deprived of the pleasure of gazing on her charms; no longer hearing the enchanting sound of her voice, he descended gradually to the gates of death, without either his mother or the MARCHIONESS entertaining the least suspicion of his danger.

AT this conjuncture an unforeseen event took place.

THE MARQUIS DE B*** had desired to have a particular ragout, of which he was passionately fond, and by too excessive an indulgence of his appetite on this favourite dish, he occasioned his own death.

THE

THE MARCHIONESS made preparations to devote such time to his memory as the laws of decency required; but on the eighth day after his interment, having heard the dangerous state into which love had thrown the health of the PRINCE, every other consideration vanished from her mind; she immediately paid a visit to his mother; and candidly disclosed to her the fears and feelings which had urged her visit.

“Is he then so ill,” replied the PRINCESS, “that you should thus violate for his sake the restraints which decency requires?”

“I AM well assured he is,” replied the COUNTESS: “but see him instantly: I shall rely upon you.”

THE mother, alarmed by this intelligence, immediately proceeded to the house of her son, and, on gently withdrawing the curtains of his bed, beheld, him struggling on the verge of life.

SHE

SHE shrieked aloud!

THE sound of her voice revived the sinking spirit of the PRINCE, and as he extended his arm towards her, she discovered the portrait of the MARCHIONESS lying on his breast.

"AND is it the MARCHIONESS who has reduced my son to this deplorable state!" exclaimed the Dowager. "Alas! my child—my dear—my lovely son—the MARCHIONESS is here—she is come to see you."

"OH! where, where is she?—let me behold her!" exclaimed the PRINCE.

THE MARCHIONESS, dressed in the weeds of widowhood, approached the bed. —

"MY dear cousin," said she, as she inclined towards him, "what has occasioned your illness?"

"SHE is dressed in mourning!" observed the PRINCE.

"YES, my dear son," replied his mother, "her husband is no more. I should have informed you of this melancholy event, but——"

"ALAS!" observed the PRINCE, "the pleasure which arises from the misfortunes of others, confers a guilty joy."

THIS reflection in some degree calmed his agitated mind; he seized the hand of the MARCHIONESS, and, pressing it with tenderness to his heart, exclaimed, "I die with grief—with grief.—The comforts of your presence alone can preserve my life."

IN uttering these words his voice faltered, and he fainted away.

THE opinion of the Physician did not tend to remove the apprehensions which were entertained of his safety; for, from the symptoms of the disorder, he despaired of his life. Informed, however, of the

the cause of his complaint, he observed its progress, and prescribed the regimen it would be necessary to pursue ; but it soon became evident, that his alliance with the MARCHIONESS was the only remedy that could effectually restore his health.

THE marriage ceremony was accordingly performed in the chamber of the patient, at the expiration of the third week of the MARCHIONESS's widowhood ; but it was thought prudent to keep the alliance a profound secret.

THE MARCHIONESS, with every tender care, and with unceasing assiduities, watched over the convalescence of her husband ; but the violence of grief having changed the whole mass of his blood, almost a year elapsed before he was perfectly restored to health, during which time she scarcely ever quitted the room. The powers of language, however, are insufficient to describe the

extent to which these delicate attentions augmented the *tendernefs* and *attachment* of the PRINCE; tho' they neither augmented his *love* nor his *esteem*, for these were already too great to admit the possibility of being increased.

PICTURE

PICTURE THE TWENTY-FIRST.

THE SURPRISE.

*On épouse une femme, on vit avec une autre,
Et l'on n'aime que soi —————*

THE COUNT DE CHEPY had espoused
MADEMOISELLE DE JALONS; and the
principles upon which so many marriages are
formed, constituted the basis of this union.

THE COUNT had married, because it was
necessary to perpetuate the family name;
because the lady was his equal in birth and
fortune; and because she was not ugly.
Neither the emotions of love or hatred
disturbed his breast; he behaved, for his own
sake, with great respect towards his wife;

and they lived together with, at least, apparent tranquillity and content.

THE virtue of fidelity is no longer to be found in *Paris*. The number of attracting objects which the metropolis every moment presents to view, tempt by their variety, and seduce by the charms of novelty which each of them possess : charms the most powerful to corrupted habits and a vitiated taste.

IN the country, indeed, matrimonial fidelity may possibly be preserved, if the lady will only be attentive to heighten her charms by the advantages of her dress, the elegance of her manners, and the cleanliness of her person ; three indispensable attentions, and which, if the ladies will permit me to make the observation, ought to be adhered to with as much nicety *after* as they usually are *before* the nuptial knot is tyed.

THE COUNT and his wife continued contentedly to vegetate at his country seat, surrounded

rounded by a group of rosy peasants, in whose minds he had raised himself to considerable dignity and respect, when his lady, having heard great commendations of *Figaro*, conceived an unconquerable inclination to visit *Paris*, in order to see that celebrated comedy performed; and the inclination of the COUNT being equal to that of his wife, they departed from the country one morning in the month of May, and arrived soon afterwards at the metropolis.

HIRING a lodging in the *Marais* of *Rue St. Anastase*, they went the next day to see the *Boulevard du Temple*; and as it happened to be a holiday, MADAME DE CHEPY was decked out in her best apparel, with her hair in tight curls, and a small riding-coat covered by a robe *à la Française*; a style of dress at least ten or a dozen years older than the fashion of the day. With what astonishment, therefore, did she behold a group of ladies dressed in white frocks, who appearing at a distance, like a number of boarding-school

misses, scarcely fifteen years of age, made the town look to her eyes like the land of fairies; but on a nearer approach, for one that was young and beautiful, she discovered thirty old and shrivelled; who were endeavouring to emit lively glances from their dull, lustre-lacking, and tarnished eyes. The natural vanity of the sex interposed, and she flattered herself that her charms were, at least, greatly superior to those she had yet seen.

THE COUNT and his lady being engaged to dine with her relation the MARCHIONESS DE S***, were punctual to the appointment at three o'clock. The young MARCHIONESS, dressed in the highest style of fashionable elegance, rendered the appearance of MADAME DE CHEPY, in her antiquated finery, quite ridiculous. The superior taste of the MARCHIONESS dazzled the eyes of the admiring COUNT, and every word he uttered was calculated to convey a compliment to the lustre of her charms. The pride of MADAME DE CHEPY was hurt by
his

his unreserved partiality; and, exciting the attention of her husband by the discovery of her vexation, she seized a moment when she was not, as she conceived, overheard, to say to him,

“WELL, do not praise her person then, but confine your compliments to the finery of her clothes. You shall see that to-morrow, or next day, I will be dressed with equal elegance.”

THE MARCHIONESS, however, overheard the observation, and silently meditated revenge.

THE person of the COUNT was extremely handsome.

THE young MARCHIONESS had married M. DE S*** by the compulsion of her parents; and two or three lovers had already warmed the coldness with which she approached the temple of Hymen. The bewitching
smiles

smiles with which she assailed the COUNT, while they attracted his attention, captivated his heart; and, on taking leave, he begged permission to wait on her the ensuing day.

THE MARCHIONESS readily consented; for, perceiving that MADAME DE CHEPY was possessed of sufficient beauty to receive great effect from the advantages of dress, she was willing to prevent the consequences of that splendour with which she had menaced her.

THE next day, before the ceremony of the evening toilet was begun, the COUNT arrived, and found the MARCHIONESS dressed in a *coiffeure* of tight curls, with a little cap on her head, in the fashion of ten years back, exactly like his wife: but her beauties were encreased by the simplicity of her dress.

"AH!" exclaimed the COUNT, "it is to the bounty of nature that you are indebted for your charms, which no change of dress can alter, or destroy."

He

HE accordingly seated himself by her side, and poured out the most eloquent and flattering encomiums on her beauty.

COUNTRY gentlemen possess hearts as well as sense, and the COUNT, who was endowed with abundance of wit, rendered his conversation so extremely pleasing, that the MARCHIONESS, experienced in the arts of gallantry, rewarded him with looks of tenderness and love.

PROVOKED by the tempting whiteness of her half exposed bosom, he clasped her delicate waist in his enamoured arms: "I adore you!" he exclaimed; "you have touched my heart.—Charming woman! my happiness depends on you."

THE bosom of the MARCHIONESS throbbed with pleasure, while her down-cast eyes beamed a transient but inspiring glance towards her lover.—But the sequel of this interview is yet unknown.

THE

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THE

THE COUNTESS, who was already dressed in the highest style of taste and fashion, as if it had been her wedding-day, had ordered her *remise* to follow her faithless spouse; for she had brought her *fille de chambre* PERETTA with her to town; and she reached the house of the Marchioness a few minutes after her husband arrived.

THE servants, who had seen her husband enter, and recollected her from having seen her the preceding day, readily acquiesced in her desire of not being announced.

ADVANCING towards the room, she gently opened the green serge door, and pushing open one half the folding-door within side, silently entered the apartment, at the moment her eloquent husband was expressing the passion of his heart.

“WHAT charming language! Alas, he never used the like to me!—Ah! how she listens to the pleasing sounds!—See there—
and

and knew him not till yesterday!—*Parisian* wives make rapid advances.”

THE COUNTESS, as she pronounced these words, picked up the hat and gloves of her faithless husband, and, silently retiring from the room, returned abruptly to the door.

THE COUNT released the MARCHIONESS from his encircling arms, and looked in vain around, as if he wished to find his hat, while the MARCHIONESS stooped down to reach her work-bag, which had fallen on the floor.

AT this juncture the COUNTESS entered the room. “Sir,” said she, “I have brought back your hat and gloves, which I just now picked up. I am much obliged to the kindness of my cousin for the civilities she has shewn to you, and I agree that in imitating my country dress, she looks as lovely as she does when dressed in the *newest fashion*. The air of *Paris*, however, don’t agree with me. To-night we are engaged to see *Figaro*; but to-morrow,
if

if you please, we will return to CHEPY ; for at CHEPY we lived with at least composure and content, without thinking of the *newest fashion*.

“ You may return, if you please, Madam,” replied the COUNT ; “ but it is my pleasure to stay here some time longer.

THE feelings of the COUNTESS were irritated beyond measure, but—her manners were polite.

IN the evening they went to see the Comedy of *Figaro*. The COUNTESS recollecting, from the forcible impression which the part of the Page made upon her mind, that she had a young relation who acted in that capacity in the service of the King, sent him an invitation to come and see her ; and he paid the visit the moment he received the invitation.

THE COUNTESS had adopted the fashionable dress of the metropolis, and, being really hand-

handsome, appeared scarcely eighteen years of age.

THE young Page found her perfectly adapted to his taste ; and the COUNTESS entertaining the same idea of the Page, they made themselves agreeable to each other, and matters were arranged accordingly.

ABOUT a fortnight after this new connection had been formed, the COUNTESS observed that the COUNT was preparing to pay a visit to the MARCHIONESS :—" Pray Sir," said she to him, " why cannot we make a *partie quarrée* ?"

" How, Madame ! what do you mean ?"

" OH ! [there is you and the MARCHIONESS, and I and my cousin the King's Page."

" I WILL ask permission of the MARCHIONESS ; and if she consents, I can have no objection."

THE

THE COUNT accordingly took his leave, and on his arrival at the house of his lovely MARCHIONESS, mentioned to her the proposal his wife had made.

“AND did you not immediately accede to it?” replied the MARCHIONESS.

“No, Madame; I was willing first to learn your sentiments on the subject.”

“OH! for shame—You are a perfect *Hottentot*! The party your wife has proposed is the best imaginable; it is the *newest fashion*.—Go—run yourself, and desire them to come immediately.—But first, tell me, in what style is your wife dressed?”—

THE COUNT answered her question, and instantly departed.

THE MARCHIONESS, while the COUNT was discharging the duties of his embassy, changed the style of her dress, and rendered her beauties more striking.

THE

THE COUNTESS also, to secure the captive of her charms, had heightened the elegance of her dress, and appeared with such ravishing lustre, that her husband was struck by the beauty of her appearance.

THE obedient COUNT conducted his wife, accompanied by the youthful Page, to the house of the MARCHIONESS.

BUT what happened to interrupt the enjoyment of their *partie quarrée*?

THE young Page was an admirer of the MARCHIONESS, and the disappointed COUNTESS was necessitated to *turn again* to her husband.

THE party, from this circumstance, instead of indulging in the licentiousness of pleasure, became, at least with respect to the COUNT and COUNTESS, extremely solemn and precise.

THE COUNT was faithful to his wife for the long space of fifteen days, but at the expi-

ration of this period he renewed his visits to the MARCHIONESS, who surrendered to the COUNTESS the affections of the Page.

PARIS is the place to improve provincial minds!

PICTURE

PICTURE THE TWENTY-SECOND.

THE PRINCE'S BOX.

THE young PRINCE OF RICHBURG, walking one day arm in arm with the DUKE D'ESTRADE, observed a little girl in the arms of her mother, who was asking charity.

THE PRINCE stopped suddenly, and appeared absorbed in thought.

"WHAT is the subject of your contemplation?" asked the DUKE.

"A VERY singular subject," replied the PRINCE. "An idea has occurred to my mind which pleases me very much. You observe that poor woman with an infant in her arms, clothed in rags. If care were taken of the child, she might perhaps, at some future period, become a celebrated beauty; and I feel

an inclination to render her an object of public admiration."

"BUT by what means is this to be effected?"

"BY education, and introducing her on the stage, either as a singer, a dancer, or an actress."

"THIS is a singular idea, indeed!"

THE PRINCE desired the poor woman to follow him, and conducting them to a proper lodging, ordered both the mother and daughter to be conveniently accommodated, and provided a fund for their support. They were afterwards placed in a suitable convent, where, during the course of ten years, the little ISABELLA was instructed in all the polite literature of the age.

THE PRINCE, during this interval, had never seen his little *protégée*; but hearing from the voice of public report, that she possessed the
appar-

appearance of becoming extremely beautiful, he sent COULON to teach her to dance, while another fashionable master gave her lessons in music, and an actor of the French stage instructed her in the science of declamation. It was, however, in the elegant accomplishment of *dancing* that the lovely ISABELLA most excelled.

THE progress of her excellence was reported to the PRINCE, who, when time and education had rendered her completely proficient, requested that the DUKE would introduce her through the interest of some of his friends to the Opera-house, to afford her an opportunity of trying her talents for the stage.

THE mother, by whose advice and opinions her daughter's conduct was entirely directed, accompanied her in this new scene of life; and by her mother's suggestion she was announced as a new performer to the public, under a fictitious name: a name on which the public afterward bestowed unbounded applause.

THE mind of the PRINCE, engrossed by the multiplicity of youthful pleasures, equally ignorant of the DUKE's having introduced his young pupil to the stage, and of the new name she had in consequence assumed, continued to speak of her as a person still under his care. He heard, therefore, the encomiums which were passed on the extraordinary talents of the new performer, without the smallest suspicion that it was to him the public were indebted for their pleasure.

CURIOSITY, however, induced the PRINCE one evening to visit the Opera, in company with his friend the DUKE; and they were seated together in the PRINCE's box, when ISABELLA, in one of the most brilliant *entrées* of the ballet, made her appearance on the stage.

THE PRINCE was as much struck by the beauty of her person, as the audience were captivated by the excellence of her talents. The house resounded with applauses, and reiterated *bravo's* echoed from every side.

BY

"By heavens!" exclaimed the PRINCE, "I must speak to this charming dancer; her merits demand my warmest praise." He accordingly dispatched one of the box-keepers with his compliments to the lady, requesting she would do him the favour of a few moments conversation in his box.

ISABELLA, accompanied by her mother, immediately ascended to the PRINCE'S box; for upon these occasions the mother, whether natural or fictitious, of an Opera-girl, never permits her daughter to go alone.

It was impossible that either the mother or her daughter should have forgot the name of their royal benefactor.

ISABELLA was yet without a lover; for her mother, wishing to render her the deserving object of some high and advantageous alliance, had preserved in her mind all the captivating timidity of virgin innocence.

SHE accordingly entered the box with blushing modesty.—“ Charming, lovely girl !” exclaimed the PRINCE several times without interruption, while he passed his hand with some freedom underneath her chin.

THE mother of ISABELLA, perceiving that he did not recollect them, presented her daughter, whose hand already rested on the PRINCE’s arm, while the other was elevated, as if endeavouring to fly away, and addressing herself to him—“ I hope,” said she, “ my daughter pleases you. The generous cares your Highness has bestowed have not been bestowed in vain.

“ How ! what does this mean ?”

“ MY Lord, it is ISABELLA whom you see !”

“ ISABELLA !” exclaimed the PRINCE.

“ YES, my Lord, that poor unhappy child, once the sad object of disdain, but more of pity, to
whose

whose merits you proposed to raise the admiring eyes of the public."

"OH heavens!—Is it possible—Is this my lovely pupil?—Well, my dear friend, you see that I have not been deceived, since in my own admiration I have realized that which I predicted would be paid by others.—We must all sup together this evening, and have some conversation."

ISABELLA, who had yet to make another *entrée* in the ballet of the evening, descended with her mother to the stage.

WHEN the Opera was over, the PRINCE, accompanied by the DUKE, conducted ISABELLA and her mother from the theatre to a house on the BOULEVARDS DU TEMPLE, where they supped.

THE PRINCE, with great anxiety, informed himself of all the circumstances of ISABELLA's life, particularly the line of conduct she had pursued since her acquaintance with the stage;
and

and he had great reason to be satisfied with the accounts he received. Her mother shewed him an octavo volume, containing one hundred and twenty pages, in which every transaction was recorded, and it was filled with proposals of alliance from persons both of the city and the court. ISABELLA, however, had rejected every overture which had been made, and referred it to her mother to appreciate the respective merits of the candidates for her favour.

AMONG the number of these lovers was a young man, the son of an opulent FINANCIER, whose name struck the ear of the PRINCE, as belonging to a person of whom he had some knowledge; and on an examination of his proposals, he appeared to be so excellent in his character, and sincere in his attachment, that the PRINCE recommended to her to dismiss the other candidates.—“My charming pupil,” said he, “has, by the purity and virtue of her conduct, rendered herself a sacred object of my friendship and esteem; and we shall

shall hereafter see in what manner her honest inclinations are to be rewarded."

THE delicate regard which the PRINCE entertained for the character of ISABELLA induced him to order the servants to continue in the room during the dessert, and he permitted her to go home at an early hour.

THE ensuing day, when the young FINANCIER presented himself, he was immediately admitted to the house, and the prudent mother spoke to him on the subject of his proposal in the manner the PRINCE had advised.

THE hope of being exclusively beloved, and his certainty of the unspotted character of ISABELLA, induced the young man to make an immediate offer of marriage.

THE generous proposals he offered on the score of fortune, together with the lively ardour of his affection, obtained the mother's consent.

ISABELLA,

THE PRINCE'S BOX.
140 THE PRINCE'S BOX.

ISABELLA, who discovered in the person and character of this young man qualities which she had not seen united in any other of her admirers, youth and amiability, was, on her part, willing to sacrifice to him all the advantages of her future success.

SUCH was the situation of things when the family of the young man were informed of his intentions.—At the eve of celebrating the nuptial union, he was arrested by virtue of an order from the King, and sent into exile.

THE prudence of the mother and the virtue of her daughter were not relaxed by this disappointment; they continued to live with a decency suitable to their situation; and adhered with scrupulous attention to the regularity of their conduct.

THE young and lovely ISABELLA by increasing excellence distinguished herself in the line of her profession, and shone with brilliant success at the theatres both of *London* and *Paris*.

BUT at the crisis of her fortune, when she beheld the pleasing prospect of seeing her constancy and merit meet their due reward, she was carried off in the flower of her age, and the highest bloom of beauty, by a malignant disorder.

THE mind of her young lover was overwhelmed by grief; and the heart of her princely protector wept with the keenest sensibility over the memory of his fair and virtuous pupil.

ADELIA

ADELIA MERRI was a lovely brunette, the second of three amiable sisters.

THE youthful **ORRA**, brother to a man who enjoyed a considerable place under government, had been placed in the family of **MONSIEUR MERRI**, her father, as a kind of clerk, that he might acquire the habits of business.

ORRA, from the first moment that his eyes beheld the lovely **ADELIA**, was deeply smitten with her charms, although at this period she was yet an infant under thirteen years of age, and her elder sister had attained that ripeness of age, and appetite of beauty, which inspires the soul with love.

THE

THE tender sentiments which ADELIA had excited in the heart of ORRA, he endeavoured anxiously to conceal ; but the restraints which he imposed upon his feelings only rendered his passion more warm and lively. The indulgence of it, however, was still confined to stolen glances and unobserved attentions ; and if her sisters by chance perceived the particularity of his behaviour, he endeavoured to shew to them an equal attention, to prevent their suspicions.

THE windows of MONSIEUR DE MERRI'S house overhung the *Quai de la Vallée*, and the family were frequently exposed, on that side where the factory was established, to hear very indelicate and unpleasant conversations.

THE virtuous ORRA, who was anxious to preserve unsullied the native purity of ADELIA'S mind, was careful, whenever it was probable that these gross conversations might

might be overheard, to engage her in conversation, and by the loudness of his voice, or the noise of play, avert her attention from the subject, and prevent its indecent tendency from offending her ears.

ORRA constantly attended the family of MONSIEUR DE MERRI whenever they walked abroad; and his mind was entirely devoted to the care of his beloved ADELIA. While no object presented itself that could give offence to the purity of female delicacy, his civilities were confined to her mother and her sisters; but the moment he discovered the most distant danger of any thing indecent presenting itself to ADELIA's eyes, he instantly seized her lovely hand, and with great adroitness led her another way.

THE elegant trifles which are intended to ornament the person or to please the mind, he lavished with equal care among the sisters; but he continued to observe a behaviour so cold and distant toward

wards the eldest, that even a flattering compliment to her never escaped his lips. This conduct, which manifested no particular partiality, together with the general propriety of his manners, caught the attention of MONSIEUR and MADAME MERRI; and conceiving for him the most cordial esteem, they destined him, in their own minds, as the future husband of their eldest daughter; but thinking it improper that she should be married until she was of age, they dissembled their wishes and intention on this subject.

THE harmony which prevailed throughout the family, and the pain with which the idea of parting afflicted the heart of ORRA, induced him to remain in his present situation longer than had been at first proposed; but the pleasure he received in being treated with as much tenderness and attention as if he had been their own son, soon removed his fears, and in a short time discovered to him some faint

notions of the intention which ADELIA'S parents cherished in their minds.

THE lovely object of his secret attachment, as she advanced in age, whether from a silent consciousness of her beauty or merit, became of a disposition extremely reserved. She was as grave and serious as her youngest sister was lively and laughing.

THE character of the eldest sister was mild and placid ; and the charms of goodness animated every feature of her face, with the same force that the sentiments of sense and virtue proceeded from her lips.

ORRA conceived that he could not adopt any measure more likely to secure the object of his attachment, than to provide a lover for the eldest sister ; and in seeking among his acquaintance, he at length found a young man of extraordinary merit, who had frequently complimented him on the
happiness

happiness of living in so agreeable a family.

ORRA, however, was careful to inform himself of the real sentiments from which these compliments proceeded, conceiving that his beloved ADELIA was unavoidably the object of universal admiration.

His jealous fears were soon removed.

ARNEVILLE declared, that the eldest sister was alone the object of his choice; that she had for three years past been the exclusive idol of his soul; but that, supposing her affections engaged to the person whom her parents already treated like their son, he had concealed, with equal care, the grief and fondness that assailed his heart.

ORRA leaped upon the neck of his friend in the extravagance of joy with which this candid declaration filled his mind, and exclaimed, "Then we are not rivals!" MADE-

MOISELLE DE MERRI is amiable in the highest degree, but my affections were engaged on my first acquaintance with the family."

THIS mutual confidence increased the friendship which had long subsisted in their youthful hearts; and ORRA not only introduced his friend to the object of his affections, with high encomiums on his superior merit, but disclosed his wishes to her mother in such a manner as to bespeak success.

MADAME MERRI at first conceived that ORRA's apparent anxiety in the service of ARNEVILLE was the effect of jealousy, and that his conversation was only calculated to discover her sentiments upon the subject with respect to himself: she therefore told him, that both her husband and herself had always intended to confer on him the hand of their eldest daughter, and that he might rest assured he should have the preference over every rival.

"MADAME,"

"MADAME!" exclaimed the astonished ORRA, "is it your wish that I should drive the friend of my youth, the companion of my infancy, to the distraction of despair? He has silently adored your eldest daughter for these three years past. As to myself, I acknowledge that the happiness of my future life will depend on my relation to your family, on becoming your son—but you have another daughter.—My fate, Madame, is entirely at your disposal.—I am yours—But oh! have pity on my friend.—"

THE warm and lively colouring with which ORRA painted the sentiments which ARNEVILLE entertained for JULIA MERRY, expressed the ardour of his own for his beloved ADELIA.

THE mother, disappointed in the conclusion she had made, was overwhelmed with astonishment and surprise at what the virtuous ORRA had expressed; but she reserved her

acquiescence to the proposal he had made in favour of his friend, until she had consulted with her husband on the subject.

MONSIEUR DE MERRI made enquiries into the character of ARNEVILLE, and soon found that he possessed extraordinary merit; and the observations which his experience of the human character enabled him to make, discovered to him, upon reflection, that ORRA had long adored his daughter ADELIA.

ADELIA was at this period eighteen years of age, and her person a model of the finest beauty.

THE mind of the affectionate parent determined without hesitation on the course to be pursued, and he immediately communicated his discovery of ORRA's affection for ADELIA, and the resolution he had framed upon it, to his wife.

MADAME

MADAME DE MERRI, on her part, after examining the conduct of the young man, and recollecting all the circumstances of his behaviour, was enchanted with the sentiments and manners with which love had inspired his mind. She beheld with transport that his passion, almost singular of its kind, laboured with infinite anxiety to preserve the mind and manners of ADELIA in their native purity; and that he even endeavoured to guard her from involuntary deviations. She accordingly questioned the enamoured youth as to the state of his heart, and ORRA, observing that his passion was discovered by a parent equally affectionate and penetrating, candidly avowed the feelings which had occupied his bosom from the first moment he had beheld ADELIA.

THE hand of MADemoiselle MERRI, in consequence of these *éclaircissements*, was given immediately in marriage to ARNEVILLE, and ADELIA was destined to become the

future bride of the enamoured ORRA ; but it was thought prudent to defer the nuptial union for two years.

ORRA had now no longer occasion to conceal his passion ; and the sentiments with which it was expressed were so noble and pure, that he excited the love and admiration of all who knew him.

SOME friends one day complimenting him on his conduct, "The happiness of love," said he, "consists in the exercise of virtue, and I should poison the cup of my own felicity, if I were to mix in it the least ingredient of vice.

PICTURE

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PICTURE THE TWENTY-THIRD.

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expect his

THE OPERA-HOUSE.

which was expected were to noble

and that the love and

THERE is no exhibition from which an idea of the magnificence of a great and wealthy nation may be more properly collected than that of a celebrated Opera, the representation of which has long excited public expectation.

WENT TO THE

WHILE the attention of the audience is fixed by the pleasure of the scenes, the house appears to be filled with a congregation of busts; but when the curtain drops, and the company rises, every part appears in commotion.

PICTURE

THE ladies, anxious to display their charms, the servants busied to procure their carriages, afford a scene like *chaos* struggling into order.

THE

THE eye is dazzled with delight, while it wanders over the undulating multitude of brilliant beauties dressed in the richest finery of fashion.

IN one place we behold a *Pouf*; in another, a *Chapeau à-la-pandore*.

A YOUNG DUCHESS, lately married, decorated with the *bouquet* and the *chapeau*, listens with seeming rapture to the soft enchanting tale which a *Petit-Maitre* whispers to her ear, while her husband is engaged in conversation with another groupe of females.

THIS is the scene where *Wits* procure their invitations to entertain the company at the *soupers fin*; and *Abbes*, whose origin are unknown, find out the secret of being connected with every family they see. They speculate throughout the audience, and, selecting from the groupe, match themselves wherever they please.

THIS

THIS is the great *emporium* of overflowing pleasures, where each person makes his bargain for the remainder of the day; for there are many men with whom the evening does not commence till morn has ushered in the light, and whose noon commences when they issue from the Opera.

LET us describe, if it be possible in this vast concourse, an adventure which delineates the manners of those who depend upon the splendour of their personal appearance and the dexterity of their address.

WHAT a multitude of moral reflections upon the luxuries of the age immediately present themselves to the mind! The nation is crushed by the weight of its own magnificence. With what unfeeling harshness are the *fermiers* treated! How many tradesmen go unpaid! How many citizens are tossed into the mud, thrown down, and buried under the mad rapidity of their chariot wheels! What numbers of useful horses and laborious
men

men are seduced to leave the toils of agriculture !—

BUT let us leave this dark unpleasing picture ; for these topics appear more frightful in proportion as they are true.—

CLOSE by the side of one of the opera flower-girls stood a noble DUKE, young, voluptuous, and of large estate, secretly conveying a letter into her hand, accompanied by some *Louis d'ors*, and pointing to the fair object for whom the billet was designed.

“WHAT the devil, my Lord!” exclaimed the *bouquetiere*, “a young bride! How is it possible to deliver it!”—

“OH! in the best manner you are able; the daily habits of your life will easily suggest to you the safest means!”

THE *bouquetiere*, having put the letter into her flower-basket, and secured the *Louis d'ors* in her pocket, waited while the lady approached

proached towards her, as she withdrew from the light of the *chandelier*.

THE DUKE, her husband, had hold of one hand, leading her down the steps, while the other was employed in playing with that important instrument to females, her fan.

THE *Petit-Maitre* and an *Abbe* of the Court walked behind her.

THE difficulty of delivering the letter and the danger of its being refused were extremely great; but the *bouquetiere* was called upon both by her honour and interest to exert all the adroitness of her trade in the faithful discharge of her commission.

SHE accordingly selected a bunch of her finest roses, and having wrapped the *billet-doux* around its stalks, and tied it with strips of rushes in such a manner that none of the paper could be seen, she approached the lady and presented the nosegay.

THE

THE offer was not observed.

"CHARMING lady," said the *bouquetiere*,
"I am indebted to you this nosegay; and
justice obliges me to request your acceptance
of it."

THE lady took the bunch of roses.

WHILE she approached her carriage, and
the attention of her husband was diverted by
giving orders to the coachman, the *bouquetiere*
whispered softly in the ear of the DUCHESS—
"MADAME, *do not put the stalk of it in water,*"
and immediately retired.

THE suggestions of artifice were perfectly
unintelligible to the innocent mind of the
DUCHESS; but still, while she held the bou-
quet in her hand, the oddity of the circum-
stance led her to reflect on its meaning. The
stalk of it, she thought, was unusually large,
but she was utterly unable to solve the mys-
tery.

THE

THE moment she arrived at home the expression again recurred to her mind. "I cannot conceive," said she to her *fille de chambre*, "what the *bouquetiere* could possibly mean by giving me this packet of roses, and requesting that I would not *put the stalk of it in water*."

"LA, MA'AM!" replied SUZETTA, "the meaning of it is extremely simple. You must untie it.——"

SUZETTA accordingly proceeded with great alacrity to unravel the slips of rushes with which it was tied.

"LA, MA'AM, why here is a letter!" cried SUZETTA.

"A LETTER!" exclaimed the DUCHESS.

"YES, MA'AM; and this is the best opportunity you can possibly have to read it, for no suspicion can prevent while you are supposed to be engaged here with me.——"

THE

THE young DUCHESS accordingly opened the letter, which was conceived in the following terms :

“ MADAME,

“ THIS is the only means by which I can
“ communicate to you my knowledge and
“ intentions respecting your real character,
“ the condition of your family, and the irrefragable proofs which I am capable of
“ giving you upon these subjects. I therefore most sincerely request that you will
“ grant me the honour of a few moments conversation, at any place you shall please
“ to appoint. As I am not a lover, I am
“ not importunate with respect to time : it is
“ nevertheless highly important that I should
“ see you as soon as possible, and that
“ your answer should be conveyed to
“ me through the same channel as my
“ letter has been conveyed to you ; that is,
“ through the hands of the *bonquetiere*,
“ in order to avoid the intervention of our
“ respective

"respective servants. I have the honour
"to be, &c. &c.

"The DUKE DE F***."

THE contents of this letter encreased the astonishment and surprise which filled the mind of the young DUCHESS, as she stood in no degree of relationship whatever with its noble writer.

SHE was at first willing to consider it as the effusion of some accidental pleasantry, but the more she reflected on the import of its contents, the greater curiosity it excited in her mind; and she was almost tempted to return immediately to the Opera-House.

ON the Tuesday following, however, she went again to the Opera; and the *bouquetiere*, being ready in waiting, presented her, the moment she alighted from her carriage, with a bunch of flowers.

" I HAVE some flowers," observed the DUCHESS, "but your's seem more fresh and fragrant ; let me have that bunch of roses?"

THE DUCHESS accordingly unpinned her own *bouquet*, and gave it to the *bouquetiere* in exchange, saying—"But remember to return it to me when I go away."

THE DUKE DE F***, who had received intelligence of the intention of the DUCHESS to go that evening to the Opera, had followed her carriage, and, as he sat in one corner of his chariot, overheard the directions she had given to his emissary. The instant, therefore, that he got into the house he ran to the *bouquetiere*, and took the DUCHESS's nosegay from the basket.

" LEAVE it to me,—leave it to me," said the *bouquetiere*; " I alone know where you must look to find its contents."

SHE

SHE accordingly untied the *bouquet*, and the DUKE perceiving a small piece of paper hid among the stalks of some carnations, seized it with rapture, and hastened to a convenient place, where he read as follows :

“ SIR,

“ THE circumstance of receiving a letter
“ from you, fills me with the highest degree
“ of surprise, as I have no knowledge of you
“ except by sight ; and from the noble title you
“ bear, I am at a loss to conjecture what
“ possible relation can subsist between us.
“ However, that I may not hereafter have any
“ occasion to reproach myself with neglect,
“ I have answered your letter in the manner
“ you desired. The interview you solicit
“ shall be in the presence of two persons ;
“ one of them on your behalf, and the other
“ on mine ; but they shall not, unless neces-
“ sary, be made privy to the subject of our
“ conversation. It remains with you to
“ appoint the time and place.”

M 2

THE

THE DUKE DE F*** was transported with tumults of the highest joy; for the design which he entertained against the virtue of the lovely DUCHESS was forwarded to the full extent of his wishes, by the success of this effort to establish a kind of literary intercourse. He accordingly answered her letter on the spot, concealed it in the nosegay of his fair correspondent, charged the *bouquetiere* to deliver it with care, and to bring him immediate intelligence of her success.

WHEN the Opera was over, the cunning emissary approached the DUCHESS, and in restoring her the same nosegay she had received, again desired her not to *wet the stalks*.

“MADAME,

“I THINK we may contrive the interview, which is equally important to us
 “both, on Thursday next, at the *Redoute*
 “*Cbinoise*. I shall be there, and shall leave
 “it to you so to arrange the circumstances
 “of

“ of our meeting, that we may converse
“ with secrecy and confidence ; but if this
“ appointment should be inconvenient to
“ you, we must defer the interview till a
“ future opportunity.”

THE parties met pursuant to this appointment.

THE DUKE DE F***, at first addressed the DUCHESS upon general topics of conversation ; but perceiving that his own *valet* and the lady's *fille de chambre* were the only persons present, he spoke to her in the following terms :

“ MADAME, I have a very singular and extraordinary piece of intelligence to communicate to your Grace.—You are the daughter of your nurse ; your husband is the son of his father's coachman ; and I am the true heir and legitimate son of the late Duke your father-in-law. The means by

which this change was effected, was discovered by two women, upon a quarrel with their husbands, who were unwilling that base and vulgar blood should be transmitted through the descendants of a noble name. I am in possession of a written document, attested by credible witnesses, which confirms the truth of this relation. You see, therefore, that according to the notions of our parents we are really destined for each other's arms. On the other hand, you must perceive that it is in my power to circulate insidious reports, which may prove injurious to your character; my proposal, however, is, that we should form a mutual connection, see each other as often as the opportunities of secrecy will permit, and thereby repair, as much at least as it is in our power, the crimes our mothers have been guilty of——”

THE faculties of the DUCHESS were petrified with astonishment; and she was unable for some time to utter a single word.

How

How was it possible for her to entertain the most distant idea, that the whole of this story was an absurd and monstrous fiction, invented by a young libertine, who had become enamoured with her blooming charms !

YOUNG, innocent, and inexperienced, she believed the fabricated tale ; and, educated in the high sentiments which an illustrious birth inspires, she blushed in reflecting on the degradation to which so low and base-born an origin would expose her.

THE DUCHESS, however, demanded to see the scroll of her disgrace, and the DUKE immediately produced a written paper, furnished with a number of attestations, from which he read the two principal facts he had related, and then returned the well-contrived imposture to his pocket.

THIS new and detestable mode of seduction had nearly operated a villanous success, when the unhappy DUCHESS, like a person

inspired by the last efforts of despair, resolved to consult her friend the DUCHESS DE M***.

THIS noble lady, inheriting the wisdom, caution, and prudence, which the QUEEN proclaimed her mother to possess, smiled with indignation at the base attempt.

THE certainty which she expressed of its being a contrivance, revived the desponding spirits of her amiable friend.

SHE resolved to confront the DUCHESS with the vile traducer of her name and character; and the wisdom and prudence with which she adopted her measures for this purpose, overwhelmed the mind of this audacious calumniator with such confusion and dismay, that he never dared to produce the guilty scroll.

THIS picture, or rather this unfinished outline, has been selected from a thousand others of a nature nearly similar; but how many

many instances yet remain, illustrative of the wide extent to which the treacherous arts of seduction are hourly practised !

THE present instance has been preferred, only because the fact is recent and the story true.

PICTURE

THE OVERSEA-BORN

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names are usually printed.

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PICTURE THE TWENTY-FOURTH.

THE AGREEABLE SUPPER.

SHALL I paint a picture of supreme felicity, such as the human species are capable of tasting?

OBERVE then this delighted supper party, where two lovers, each with a favourite fair-one by his side, freed from the peering observation of attendants, enjoy without restraint the joys of love and wine.

THE muse of one, inspired by champaign, risks a warm and very expressive declaration of his love in the poetry of a song, which he appears anxious to suppress after it has once been read.—What significant glances!—what acuteness in developing its meaning, beam from the eyes of the fair reader!

THE

THE other lover *speaks* not *writes* his sentiments; but while he warmly presses the fair object of his choice, the energy of his soul lends such a licentious emphasis to his tongue, that it seems to excite a blush upon her cheek.

“COME,” said she, filling him a bumper, “you must excuse this temerity by the privileges of intoxication.”

“OH!” replied her lover, “I have a more favourable excuse—the intoxication of love.”

“COME, drink—I’ll pledge you.”

“WILL you?—come then—Instead of being a *Thyrsis* or a *Colin*, I shall become *Anacreon*.”

“——In good spirits?”

“IN

“ IN your company, Madame, it is impossible to be otherwise.”

BUT it would, perhaps, be dangerous to observe the conduct of this party much farther. Let us, therefore, draw the curtain of secrecy around their rites, lest they should offend the eye of modesty.

THE fashion at *Paris* is, for the men to *dine*, and the women to *sup*.

THE sagacious sex, conscious that the rays of artificial light are most favourable to beauty, have turned the *day* into *night*, and the *night* into *day*. They dine at four o'clock, and their evening toilet sometimes lasts till midnight.

THE young COUNTESS DE R*** was adored by the DUKE DE L***. Equally amiable and refined, they appeared to have been formed for each other by the hand of
Nature,

Nature, and disunited by the chance of *Hymen*.

FATE, the great arbiter of events both human and divine, had destined the lovely COUNTESS to the arms of a venerable old EARL, and married the DUKE to a rich old DOWAGER. The dejection which was already painted upon the features of the youthful COUNTESS, marked the sorrows of her heart ; and it was evident that the bosom of the DUKE was disturbed by mortification and chagrin.

THE DUKE had an intimate friend in the COUNT G****, a free and open-hearted *Picard*, rich in fortune, gay in manners, cheerful in conversation, in love with every object that attracted his attention, ardent in the pursuit of pleasure, and fruitful in finding out expedients, under every misfortune, to render others as happy as himself. Next to the women, his friends
were

were the objects of his love, and after his friends the women; for upon these subjects his preference was alternate. The object he loved next best to the women and his friends, was wine; after wine, good eating; after good eating, a little gaming; and then horses, hunting, riding, music, and the theatres, followed in regular succession. Economical in his expences, he was a generous master to his servants, and a beneficent landlord to his tenants: gratified by seeing them happy, and wishing to promote their prosperity, he pointed out to them the bliss of matrimony; and, by making their situations easy and comfortable, he enabled them to attain it.

SUCH was the character of the DUKE DE L***'s most intimate friend.

“ I AM extremely unhappy,” said the DUKE one day to his friend. “ My parents, when I was only sixteen years of age, married

married me to a woman because she was rich. We have had one son. The connection gratified the inclination of my parents, but my happiness never once entered into their minds. The parents of MADEMOISELLE DE M***, have given her hand to the old EARL her husband, and it is she alone who could have formed the felicity of my life."

"AND she shall still form it," replied the COUNT.

"AH! how! It is impossible; for her mind is as virtuous as she is fair; beside, I could not enjoy a happiness which ——"

"YOU shall not enjoy a happiness which ——," replied the COUNT, "but a felicity equally permanent and pure. Leave the management of the matter to me. I have more experience than you have. I have attained to nine-and-twenty years of age, and you are only twenty-two; a period of life

at

at which the mind is filled with high romantic notions, but which at my years have vanished. The MARCHIONESS DE G*** is my particular friend, and lives in habits of the closest intimacy with the COUNTESS. The MARCHIONESS is extremely handsome, and the object of my adoration; we will contrive a soft connection, and both you and the COUNTESS shall be as virtuous and happy as your hearts can wish. Of what importance are the means by which we taste of happiness or pleasure, provided we are *amused*?

THESE promises afforded great consolation to the mind of the DUKE.

IN a few days the COUNT procured the DUKE an interview with the object of his admiration, at the house of the MARCHIONESS.

THE behaviour of the two lovers was extremely reserved; and the interview concluded with profound respect on the one side, and with blushes, modesty, and diffidence, on the other.

"You seem dissatisfied," said the COUNT to his friend, as they parted.

"No hour of my life," replied he, "has ever afforded me an equal pleasure."

"THEN become a *Celadon*, if it suits your taste, and leave the *Crebillons*, the *Players*, the *Petits-Maitres*, to enjoy their speeches. The performance of those parts which depend on mere enunciation, afford but frivolous and insipid pleasures. Our men of the world, and fashionable writers, are incomprehensible to me when they object against the pleasure of agreeable trifling, and would exclude the indulgence of every species

species of *amusement*, except in the *one particular manner* which they point out,"

"It is egregious nonsense."

By such sage maxims every action of the COUNT's life was guided. He pleased himself with the company of the MARCHIONESS in his own way; and the DUKE admired the lovely COUNTESS in his. Improper counsels never prevailed. No other questions were asked in all the stolen interviews which were contrived at the house of the MARCHIONESS, than this—*Vous êtes vous amusé ?*

ONE evening, however, the DUKE applied to his friend: "I feel," said he, "that love has taken an entire possession of my heart, but I have not yet been able to collect sufficient courage to declare my passion."

"If you conceive," replied the COUNT, "that the declaration of your passion is

essentially necessary to constitute your happiness, study that mode of making it which will appear most respectful, and be most likely to succeed."

"THE declaration of my love is essential to my peace; but what if I should by this measure destroy the connection you have formed?"

"WE must endeavour to afford you the pleasure of reconciliation.—As to the rest, consult the occasion well;—there is even an amusement in this."

THE DUKE repaired to the house of the MARCHIONESS, where the party were engaged the ensuing evening, filled with the expectations of hope; but, apprehensive that his timidity might continue to restrain the powers of his tongue, he cautiously prepared a letter, in which he made a full and explicit declaration of his love.

THE

THE AGREEABLE SUPPER. 181

THE party sat down to supper about eleven o'clock; and when the repast was finished, and the servants had retired, the conversation became extremely gay and animated.

THE lively DUCHESS possessed an unusual flow of spirits.

THE discourse turning upon the subject of those sacrifices which a lover might make to his mistress, the MARCHIONESS contended, that the most flattering sacrifice a lover could possibly make, was an unreserved communication and exposure of the letters he had received from her rivals; and she immediately challenged the COUNT to produce those which he had received.

THE COUNT, with infinite gallantry, promised, that the moment he received any,

he would immediately surrender them into her hands.

"As for me," observed the COUNTESS, I prefer a lover who, by constancy and good conduct, places himself out of the danger of receiving letters from a rival.—Have you received any?" continued she, turning to the DUKE.

THE DUKE hesitated.

"How! then I perceive that you have received some?"

"Yes, Madame, but without having provoked them on my part."

"AND have you preserved them?"

"EXCEPT as to one only, I have not thought it worth while.—"

"You have one letter then?"

"YES,

"YES, and I was only induced to preserve *that* for the sake of the song which it contains."

"I HAVE no right to expect that you will make any sacrifice to me."

"IT is nevertheless to you alone to whom I can make it."

"How!—That which contains the song?"

"YES, Madame.—And I have brought it with me entirely for this purpose."

"—AH!"—She checked her voice.

THE DUKE accordingly drew the letter from his pocket, broke the seal, and threw away the envelope.

"How! It is sealed?"

"Yes, Madame, I was determined never to read it again."

"REFINED delicacy!"

"HERE it is."

THE COUNTESS immediately perused the contents of the epistle, while the eyes of her lover watched the emotions of her face.

THE COUNTESS assumed a grave and serious look.

THE DUKE made an inclination to get back the letter.

"No, no," replied the COUNTESS, with a look of complacency; "I like a *declaration* much better than an *indiscretion*; and it affords me the highest delight to find that you are incapable of committing one."

"Ah!"

"AH! Madame," replied the DUKE, "that charming sentiment constitutes the felicity of my life."

THE COUNTESS continued to read the remainder of the letter, and then returned it to her noble admirer, who, casting on it a look of veneration, opened his pocket-book, and placed it carefully within it.

"IT is impossible for me to express with what ardor I adore you," exclaimed the DUKE, while his eyes were yet fixed upon those of the COUNTESS, in waiting for her reply.

AT this moment the COUNT rose from his seat, and addressing himself to the MARCHIONESS, "You will afford me great pleasure," said he, "in permitting me again to look at that delightful picture which adorns your cabinet."

THE

THE MARCHIONESS understood perfectly well the meaning of this request, and permitted him to lead her from the room.

“ YOU love me,” said the COUNTESS, “ and the declaration of your passion gives no alarm to my mind ; for I am convinced, from the knowledge I possess of your character, we may entertain the softest intercourse of friendship with each other, without the smallest danger. The partiality I feel for you is founded on the purest esteem.”

“ AND my love,” replied the DUKE, “ shall be confined to veneration and respect. I shall be happy while you condescend to regard me as a man whom you consider dearer to you than all the world besides.”

“ I SHALL ever consider you as a sincere friend, a faithful admirer, and as a man whom I prefer——”

“ THAT

"THAT word," exclaimed the DUKE, "completes my happiness, and places me on the summit of felicity."

THIS passion, so pure and delicate, terminated like every other human passion; and when it was no longer supported by the warmth of desire, and the sentiment of esteem, became immediately extinct.

THIS picture furnishes an important and instructive lesson to the sex.

THOSE who are inclined to convert the passion of *love* into the affection of *friendship*, must never feed the flame of friendship with the fire of love.

FRIENDSHIP requires a different nourishment.

MUTUAL good offices, a behaviour cheerfully affectionate, rational reserve, and unaffected

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affected feelings, are the means by which friendship is preserved.

LOVE, on the contrary, inspires intoxicating pleasures, violent emotions, and rapturous transports, which fatigue and exhaust the feelings of the heart; and, instead of nourishing, suffocate and extinguish the fires they create.

LOVE is the transient felicity of a day.

FRIENDSHIP the permanent happiness of a whole life.

PICTURE

STUCK by the beauty, the noble air, the
model manners of SUSANNA, they admired
who she was.

PICTURE THE TWENTY-FIFTH.

THE NOBLEMAN AND HIS STEWARD.

FATIGUED with viewing scenes of horror, my eyes repose with calm delight upon this tranquil and delicious picture.

M. DE POUQUES, who had lately become possessed of his estates, visited the residence of his Steward. He was accompanied in this excursion by his amiable wife.

WHILE the faithful GREGORY prepared to render an account of the matters committed to his care, his wife introduced her daughter-in-law, with her little son and daughter, to their noble visitors.

STRUCK by the beauty, the noble air, the modest manners of SUSANNA, they enquired who she was.

THE

THE outline of the history which Farmer GREGORY's reply contained, was as follows:

SUSANNA LEPINOIS is a female orphan, who was born in the village, and abandoned by her mother at the moment of her birth. The honest GREGORY, observing her unprotected state, received her into his own house, gave her to his wife, who had an overflow of milk, to nurse, and brought her up among the number of his children.

THE eldest son of GREGORY quitted his father's house at sixteen years of age to enter into the army, and he continued in the service until four-and twenty: not that he chose this line of life from any disposition to indulge the licentiousness which prevails in it, but in obedience to his father's inclinations, who wished him to obtain sufficient knowledge of the world, to enable him the better to conduct himself in the affairs of life.

DURING .

ver DURING his *semestres* he renewed his habits of rustic toil ; and while in garrison, had studied with some success the tactics of the army.

admir ON his return to his father's house, SUSANNA had attained the eighteenth year of her age, and was deservedly admired as the most beautiful girl in the surrounding districts ; it is not therefore wonderful that the heart of the youthful soldier should soon become the willing victim of her charms.

“ MY dear father,” said the young man one day to his aged parent, “ you have educated SUSANNA as your child, can it be disagreeable to you that she should become in truth your daughter ; that she who has been all her life among your children, as if she were your own, should really become a part of your family ?”

dur “ MY child,” replied the venerable GREGORY, “ your mother and I have ever felt the tenderest attachment to SUSANNA, and it
has

has been our daily wish and nightly prayer that she might become our daughter. But it is our inclination also, that in the distribution of our property, she should be intitled to her share ; and therefore I cannot consent to the requested union unless your brothers and your sisters shall agree to adopt her as their sister and co-heirefs."

THE young man returned his father thanks, and the same evening, when all the family were assembled round the hospitable board, the farmer proposed the adoption of SUSANNA ; to which the children, seven in number, immediately consented with transports of the liveliest joy.

THE aged parent instantly arose, and taking the blushing beauty by the hand, placed her between his wife and himself, while he pronounced the following words :

" SUSANNA ! you have been educated
 " among our children. We continue igno-
 " rant of your real father or mother ; but as
 " we

"we have supplied their place, and cherished
"you as our child, we request you will ac-
"knowledge us to be your parents, as we ac-
"knowledge you to be our daughter, and
"equal inheriter with the rest of our children."

SUSANNA threw herself into the arms of her protector, and could only express her gratitude by her tears.

"We adopt you as our child," continued GREGORY, "and hereby naming you SUSANNA GREGORY, ask your consent to marry our eldest son."

SUSANNA signified her consent with blushing modesty and unaffected gratitude.

"AND this SUSANNA, whom you see before you, my Lord," continued GREGORY, "is now my daughter."

M. DE POUQUES and his lady were struck with astonishment and surprise at the story they had heard; but they had no opportunity

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at that time to satisfy their curiosity further on the subject.

IN taking a survey of the estate, it was their original intention to divide the large farm which was then in the sole occupation of this trusty steward, and distribute it in smaller portions to other farmers; but the honest character of GREGORY immediately induced them to change their resolution; and as it appeared that he had promoted the interests of his under-tenants as advantageously as if their lands had been originally demised to themselves, his landlord immediately granted him a new lease of his whole farm, and reserved the execution of his plan for other parts of his estate.

ON the return of M. DE POUQUES and his lady to *Paris*, the amiable character of SUSANNA, and her singular story, became the constant subject of their conversation.

ONE day, while they were expatiating on the merits of this charming girl, to whose husband they had given a large farm upon
very

very advantageous terms, a gentleman about forty years of age, who happened to be present, appeared interested in a very extraordinary degree by the affecting narrative.

HAVING informed himself very minutely of all the circumstances, he departed early the ensuing morning for POUQUES, and found SUSANNA alone, busily employed in the little cares of her household, in which she acquitted herself with equal grace and adroitness.

THE moment he beheld the features of her face, his soul was overwhelmed with astonishment; they recalled to his mind the countenance of an ungrateful woman, whose pregnancy he had not even suspected, and who, in the vexation of his having abandoned her, had concealed from his knowledge the only event which could have contributed to their re-union.

SUSANNA had carefully preserved a gold *etui* which her mother, in the hurry of her departure, had forgot to take away with her ; and during her conversation with the stranger, she accidentally drew the precious relic from her pocket.

THE stranger instantly recognized it to have been once his own ; and on examination it was found that all the instruments it contained remained perfect and entire.

RECOLLECTING that at the time he presented this token of his affection, he had rolled round the bottom of a gold tooth-pick a little billet, in which he had expressed some little jealousies which then disturbed his mind, he searched for the instrument, and finding the billet unread, exactly in the manner he had at first placed it, he no longer doubted that SUSANNA was his—daughter ! especially as at that period he was conscious her mother had not formed an intercourse with any other person.

He

HE disclosed to SUSANNA the secret of her origin; and on making enquiry into the situation of her mother, it appeared that she had been since married, and was then a widow.

MONSIEUR D'ÉPLOYE renewed his acquaintance with his former favourite, and conducted her to the farm where her daughter lived.

THE story of SUSANNA's birth, the resemblance of her features, the *etui*, and many other concurring circumstances, proved the identity of her child; and, having no other children, she consented to marry her former lover, and by this means to legitimate her offspring.

THE birth of a son, the only fruit of their nuptials, excluded SUSANNA from
O 3 becoming,

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becoming, by this legitimation, the sole heiress of her parent's fortunes; but her husband and herself, with their three lovely children, were carefully provided for; and the younger GREGORY, from being a steward of the estates of others, soon became the proprietor of one himself.

PICTURE

PICTURE THE TWENTY-SIXTH.

TRUE HAPPINESS.

IT is with sorrow I proclaim it, but this charming picture presents a falsehood to the eye.

It represents a young husbandman just returned home from the labours of the field to his amiable wife and affectionate children.

ONE climbs eagerly on the table to obtain the first embrace. Another runs from the lap of its fond old grandmother to his inviting arms. The youngest sits dandling on his knee, playing with the faithful dog. In the back ground, stands an old man, the founder

of the family, conversing on rural business with a stranger.

HAPPINESS is not more the lot of the country than of the town.

COULD you, alas! penetrate into the recesses of that young man's heart, you would, perhaps, find it filled with corroding cares, excruciating pains, and tormenting disquietudes.

TRUE Happiness exists nowhere except in the representations of painters and poets, at the Opera, or in certain dramas of the *Comedie Italienne*.

THE following history will perhaps delineate a character who approached near to its standard.

AT *Joux*, in the Province of *Franche Comté*, lived a young student of the college of *Saci*, named AUGI. The very promising talents

talents which his early exertions discovered, induced his parents to place him as a boarder with the master of the academy of *Joux*; a man whose great natural abilities were highly improved by the advantages of a liberal and extensive education.

THE seminary, at this period, was a perfect image of the innocence of the Golden Age. Girls and boys mixed promiscuously with each other, without any regard to distinction of sex, or difference of situation. The children of the poorest parents received the same attention, and were made in all respects equal to those of the richest nobleman.

AMONG the children then at school were the two Miss GARNIERS, the daughters of a respectable *Baillie* of that name; two sisters, JULIA and TERESA, of the family of BARBIER; and FELICITA MONCHOU, an only daughter, and very rich heiress.

THE

THE dignity of mien and elegance of figure which distinguished the person of AUGI, joined to the brilliancy of his mind, which was manifested and recommended by the pleasing facility of his manners, soon obtained him the universal approbation of the school; and from his superior merit, he became an object of very particular attention to the five young ladies already named.

THE two GARNIERS were of dispositions more reserved than the rest, but their feelings were not less ardent or acute.

JULIA considered him as the compatriot of a lover she adored; for this lovely and sensible girl, who was already sixteen years of age, had fixed her affections upon a *Pensionair* of the school, who had been at this time absent for two years.

•
THERESA

THERESA was anxious that **AUGI** should prefer her to all the rest of his admirers.

FELICITA possessed a simple, saucy, lively character; her face was slightly marked with the small-pox, but this circumstance did not render her charms less striking.

THE lovely **JULIA** being one day left alone in the school with **AUGI**.—"My dear friend," said she, "you are universally beloved; and I feel an inclination to give you my advice upon the subject."

"You will do me a great favour, Mademoiselle."

"You have captivated the affections of all my female friends. Are you rich?"

"No, Mademoiselle, I am not."

"**THEN** take my advice, attach yourself to **FELICITA MONCHOU**, cherish the passion which
which

which is rising in her bosom ; the fondness of her parents will induce them to leave her choice of a husband unconstrained. The Miss GARNIERS, high in their expectations and haughty in their manners, do not possess sufficient fortune to enable them to marry from inclination alone. My sister THERESA is too young ; and as to myself, I am already engaged. FELICITA alone seems capable of making you happy, and of being yours.—Let me entreat you to follow the advice I have given you.”

AUGI, whose sensible parents had afforded him the solid advantages of a rational education, felt with pleasure the importance of the admonition he had received from the lovely JULIA ; and on that very day he endeavoured to evince his partiality for FELICITA by stolen glances and indirect attentions.

FELICITA discovered his predilection, and her heart became interested by the mysterious

mysterious peculiarity of AUGI's behaviour ; but happening one day, in returning to the school at an early hour, to enjoy the pleasure of a private conversation with him, they disclosed the mutual fondness which had for some time been ripening in their hearts.

THE merit of the young man daily increased ; and, as Fame has not a great way to travel within the circuit of a country village, the excellency of his character soon reached the ears of MONSIEUR and MADAME MONCHOU, who were induced to speak of him in the warmest terms of recommendation to their daughter.

FELICITA candidly informed them, that she had already attracted her attention and engaged her heart.

MONSIEUR MONCHOU, being inclined to see the youth, invited him to dinner, and the modest manners with which he behaved during this interview confirmed the reports which Fame had raised in his favour.

THE

THE parents of FELICITA being sensibly partial to his merits ; he gained in the course of a few visits such an ascendancy over their affections, that they made proposals to his father, requesting he might be placed as an inmate in their house.

AUGI was accordingly established in the family of his future father-in-law, who, on experiencing his abilities, resigned to him in a great measure the entire conduct of his affairs.

POSSESSING by nature a fondness for rural œconomy, his genius, inspired by the advantages which his present situation afforded, shone forth with such extraordinary lustre, that MONSIEUR MONCHOU, who had pleased himself with the idea of giving lessons on rural subjects to his young pupil, was in a short time glad to receive them from him.

CAPTIVATED by the talents which AUGI possessed, he immediately concluded an alliance between

between him and his daughter : and on presenting her his hand in marriage, said,

“ MY dear FELICITA, I now give you the greatest portion of the territory of the kingdom.”

THE accomplished AUGI, married to an amiable wife, and living in a country where, even at this day, the most innocent and uncorrupted simplicity of manners prevail, found himself the happiest of mortal beings. Every year proved pregnant with new delights. Adored by all around him, idolized by a young and lovely wife, for whom he entertained the fondest affection, his happiness was confirmed by becoming the father of six children during the course of twelve years. The pleasure of his life contributed to prolong the declining years of his aged parents ; and their comfort, which it was his highest gratification to promote, contributed to encrease his own.

THIS happy family, by the efforts of skilful labour, and without oppression or injustice towards the poor, became extremely rich, while they

they contributed to the advantages of the country, and the comfort of their neighbours. But alas! nothing is permanent in this world!

THE great Revolution in the year 1789 arrived. AUGI, the honest, the happy AUGI, whose highest crime was his superior virtue, was accused by the envy of secret enemies of being an *Engresser*.

THE enraged multitude surrounded his house, his property was pillaged, his person seized, his life destroyed.—His aged parents perished in the flames that consumed his mansion—and his distracted wife, until this fatal moment the happiest of human beings, unable to support the dreadful shock, left six innocent little female orphans, who were at first conducted to the receptacle for *foundlings*, and afterwards turned adrift to seek their vagrant fortunes through the wide and unfeeling world.

O LIBERTY! how dearly do thy blessings cost a nation who purchases thee by *crimes*!

E I N I S.
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